

# Client to Authenticator Protocol (CTAP)

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## Abstract

This specification describes an application layer protocol for communication between a roaming authenticator and another client/platform, as well as bindings of this application protocol to a variety of transport protocols using different physical media. The application layer protocol defines requirements for such transport protocols. Each transport binding defines the details of how such transport layer connections should be set up, in a manner that meets the requirements of the application layer protocol.

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## 1. Introduction§

*This section is not normative.*

This protocol is intended to be used in scenarios where a user interacts with a relying party (a website or native app) on some platform (e.g., a PC) which prompts the user to interact with a roaming authenticator (e.g., a smartphone).

In order to provide evidence of user interaction, a roaming authenticator implementing this protocol is expected to have a mechanism to obtain a user gesture. Possible examples of user gestures include: as a consent button, password, a PIN, a biometric or a combination of these.

Prior to executing this protocol, the client/platform (referred to as *host* hereafter) and roaming authenticator (referred to as *authenticator* hereafter) must establish a confidential and mutually authenticated data transport channel. This specification does not specify the details of how such a channel is established, nor how transport layer security must be achieved.

### 1.1. Relationship to Other Specifications§

This specification is part of the FIDO2 project which includes this CTAP and the [FIDO Server Guidelines](#) specifications, and is related to the W3C [WebAuthN](#) specification. This specification refers to two CTAP protocol versions:

1. The CTAP1/U2F protocol, which is defined by the U2F Raw Messages specification [\[U2FRawMsgs\]](#). CTAP1/U2F messages are recognizable by their APDU-like binary structure. CTAP1/U2F may also be referred to as CTAP 1.2 or U2F 1.2. The latter was the U2F specification version used as the basis for several portions of this specification. Authenticators implementing CTAP1/U2F are typically referred to as U2F authenticators or CTAP1 authenticators.
2. The CTAP2 protocol, whose messages are encoded in the [CTAP2 canonical CBOR encoding form](#). Authenticators implementing CTAP2 are referred to as CTAP2 authenticators, FIDO2 authenticators, or WebAuthn Authenticators.

Both CTAP1 and CTAP2 share the same underlying transports: [USB Human Interface Device \(USB HID\)](#), [Near Field Communication \(NFC\)](#), and [Bluetooth Smart / Bluetooth Low Energy Technology \(BLE\)](#).

The [\[U2FusbHid\]](#), [\[U2FNfc\]](#), [\[U2FBle\]](#), and [\[U2FRawMsgs\]](#) specifications, specifically, are superseded by this specification.

Occasionally, the term "CTAP" may be used without clarifying whether it is referring to CTAP1 or CTAP2. In such cases, it should be understood to be referring to the entirety of this specification or portions of this specification that are not specific to either CTAP1 or CTAP2. For example, some error messages begin with the term "CTAP" without clarifying whether they are CTAP1- or CTAP2-specific because they are applicable to both CTAP protocol versions. CTAP protocol-specific error messages are prefixed with either "CTAP1" or "CTAP2" as appropriate.

Using CTAP2 with CTAP1/U2F authenticators is defined in [Interoperating with CTAP1/U2F authenticators](#).

## 2. Conformance§

As well as sections marked as non-normative, all authoring guidelines, diagrams, examples, and notes in this specification are non-normative. Everything else in this specification is normative.

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this specification are to be interpreted as described in [\[RFC2119\]](#).

### 3. Protocol Structure§

This protocol is specified in three parts:

- **Authenticator API:** At this level of abstraction, each authenticator operation is defined similarly to an API call - it accepts input parameters and returns either an output or error code. Note that this API level is conceptual and does not represent actual APIs. The actual APIs will be provided by each implementing platform.
- **Message Encoding:** In order to invoke a method in the authenticator API, the host must construct and encode a request and send it to the authenticator over the chosen transport protocol. The authenticator will then process the request and return an encoded response.
- **Transport-specific Binding:** Requests and responses are conveyed to roaming authenticators over specific transports (e.g., USB, NFC, Bluetooth). For each transport technology, message bindings are specified for this protocol.

This document specifies all three of the above pieces for roaming FIDO2 authenticators.

### 4. Protocol Overview§

The general protocol between a platform and an authenticator is as follows:

1. Platform establishes the connection with the authenticator.
2. Platform gets information about the authenticator using `authenticatorGetInfo` command, which helps it determine the capabilities of the authenticator.
3. Platform sends a command for an operation if the authenticator is capable of supporting it.
4. Authenticator replies with response data or error.

### 5. Authenticator API§

Each operation in the authenticator API can be performed independently of the others, and all operations are asynchronous. The authenticator may enforce a limit on outstanding operations to limit resource usage - in this case, the authenticator is expected to return a busy status and the host is expected to retry the operation later. Additionally, this protocol does not enforce in-order or reliable delivery of requests and responses; if these properties are desired, they must be provided by the underlying transport protocol or implemented at a higher layer by applications.

Note that this API level is conceptual and does not represent actual APIs. The actual APIs will be provided by each implementing platform.

The authenticator API has the following methods and data structures.

#### 5.1. `authenticatorMakeCredential (0x01)`§

This method is invoked by the host to request generation of a new credential in the authenticator. It takes the following input parameters, which explicitly correspond to those defined in [The `authenticatorMakeCredential`](#)

[operation](#) section of the Web Authentication specification:

Parameter name	Data type	Required?	Definition
clientDataHash	Byte Array	Required	Hash of the ClientData contextual binding specified by host. See <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> .
rp	PublicKeyCredentialRpEntity	Required	This PublicKeyCredentialRpEntity data structure describes a Relying Party with which the new <a href="#">public key credential</a> will be associated. It contains the <a href="#">Relying party identifier</a> , (optionally) a human-friendly RP name, and (optionally) a URL referencing a RP icon image. The RP name is to be used by the authenticator when displaying the credential to the user for selection and usage authorization.
user	PublicKeyCredentialUserEntity	Required	This PublicKeyCredentialUserEntity data structure describes the user account to which the new <a href="#">public key credential</a> will be associated at the RP. It contains an RP-specific user account identifier, (optionally) a user name, (optionally) a user display name, and (optionally) a URL referencing a user icon image (of a user avatar, for example). The authenticator associates the created public key credential with the account identifier, and MAY also associate any or all of the user name, user display name, and image data (pointed to by the URL, if any).
pubKeyCredParams	CBOR Array	Required	A sequence of CBOR maps consisting of pairs of PublicKeyCredentialType (a string) and cryptographic algorithm (a positive or negative integer), where algorithm identifiers are values that SHOULD be registered in the IANA COSE Algorithms registry <a href="#">[IANA-COSE-ALGS-REG]</a> .

			This sequence is ordered from most preferred (by the RP) to least preferred.
excludeList	Sequence of PublicKeyCredentialDescriptors	Optional	A sequence of PublicKeyCredentialDescriptor structures, as specified in <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> . The authenticator returns an error if the authenticator already contains one of the credentials enumerated in this sequence. This allows RPs to limit the creation of multiple credentials for the same account on a single authenticator.
extensions	CBOR map of <a href="#">extension identifier</a> → <a href="#">authenticator extension input</a> values	Optional	Parameters to influence authenticator operation, as specified in <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> . These parameters might be authenticator specific.
options	Map of authenticator options	Optional	Parameters to influence authenticator operation, as specified in in the table below.
pinAuth	Byte Array	Optional	First 16 bytes of HMAC-SHA-256 of clientDataHash using <a href="#">pinToken</a> which <a href="#">platform got from the authenticator</a> : HMAC-SHA-256(pinToken, clientDataHash).
pinProtocol	Unsigned Integer	Optional	PIN protocol version chosen by the client

The following values are defined for use in the options parameter. All options are booleans.

Key	Default value	Definition
rk	false	resident key: Instructs the authenticator to store the key material on the device.
uv	false	user verification: Instructs the authenticator to require a gesture that verifies the user to complete the request. Examples of such gestures are fingerprint scan or a PIN.

Note that the [\[WebAuthN\]](#) specification defines an abstract `authenticatorMakeCredential` operation, which corresponds to the operation described in this section. The parameters in the abstract [\[WebAuthN\]](#) `authenticatorMakeCredential` operation map to the above parameters as follows:

<a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> <code>authenticatorMakeCredential</code> operation	CTAP <code>authenticatorMakeCredential</code> operation
hash	clientDataHash

rpEntity	rp
userEntity	user
requireResidentKey	options.rk
requireUserPresence	Not present in the current version of CTAP. Authenticators are assumed to always check user presence.
requireUserVerification	options.uv or pinAuth/pinProtocol
credTypesAndPubKeyAlgs	pubKeyCredParams
excludeCredentialDescriptorList	excludeList
extensions	extensions

Note that icon values used with authenticators can employ [\[\[RFC 2397\]\]](#) "data" URLs so that the image data is passed by value, rather than by reference. This can enable authenticators with a display but no Internet connection to display icons.

When an authenticatorMakeCredential request is received, the authenticator performs the following procedure:

1. If the excludeList parameter is present and contains a credential ID that is present on this authenticator and bound to the specified rpId, wait for user presence, then terminate this procedure and return error code CTAP2\_ERR\_CREDENTIAL\_EXCLUDED. User presence check is required for CTAP2 authenticators before the RP gets told that the token is already registered to behave similarly to CTAP1/U2F authenticators.
2. If the pubKeyCredParams parameter does not contain a valid COSEAlgorithmIdentifier value that is supported by the authenticator, terminate this procedure and return error code CTAP2\_ERR\_UNSUPPORTED\_ALGORITHM.
3. If the options parameter is present, process all the options. If the option is known but not supported, terminate this procedure and return CTAP2\_ERR\_UNSUPPORTED\_OPTION. If the option is known but not valid for this command, terminate this procedure and return CTAP2\_ERR\_INVALID\_OPTION. Ignore any options that are not understood. Note that because this specification defines normative behaviors for them, all authenticators MUST understand the "rk", "up", and "uv" options.
4. Optionally, if the extensions parameter is present, process any extensions that this authenticator supports. [Authenticator extension outputs](#) generated by the authenticator extension processing are returned in the [authenticator data](#).
5. If pinAuth parameter is present and pinProtocol is 1, verify it by matching it against first 16 bytes of HMAC-SHA-256 of clientDataHash parameter using [pinToken](#): HMAC-SHA-256(pinToken, clientDataHash).
  - If the verification succeeds, set the "uv" bit to 1 in the response.
  - If the verification fails, return CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_INVALID error.
6. If pinAuth parameter is not present and [clientPin](#) been set on the authenticator, return CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_REQUIRED error.
7. If pinAuth parameter is present and the pinProtocol is not supported, return CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_INVALID.
8. If the authenticator has a display, show the items contained within the user and rp parameter structures to the user. Alternatively, request user interaction in an authenticator-specific way (e.g., flash the LED light). Request permission to create a credential. If the user declines permission, return the CTAP2\_ERR\_OPERATION\_DENIED error.
9. Generate a new [credential key pair](#) for the algorithm specified.
10. If "rk" in options parameter is set to true:

- If a credential for the same RP ID and account ID already exists on the authenticator, overwrite that credential.
- Store the user parameter along the newly-created key pair.
- If authenticator does not have enough internal storage to persist the new credential, return CTAP2\_ERR\_KEY\_STORE\_FULL.

11. Generate an attestation statement for the newly-created key using clientDataHash.

On success, the authenticator returns an [attestation object](#) in its response as defined in [\[WebAuthN\]](#):

Member name	Data type	Required?	Definition
authData	Byte Array	Required	The <a href="#">authenticator data</a> object.
fmt	String	Required	The <a href="#">attestation statement format identifier</a> .
attStmt	Byte Array, the structure of which depends on the attestation statement format identifier	Required	The attestation statement, whose format is identified by the "fmt" object member. The client treats it as an opaque object.

## 5.2. authenticatorGetAssertion (0x02)§

This method is used by a host to request cryptographic proof of user authentication as well as user consent to a given transaction, using a previously generated credential that is bound to the authenticator and relying party identifier. It takes the following input parameters, which explicitly correspond to those defined in [The authenticatorGetAssertion operation](#) section of the Web Authentication specification:

Parameter name	Data type	Required?	Definition
rpId	String	Required	<a href="#">Relying party identifier</a> . See <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> .
clientDataHash	Byte Array	Required	<a href="#">Hash of the serialized client data</a> collected by the host. See <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> .
allowList	Sequence of PublicKeyCredentialDescriptors	Optional	A sequence of PublicKeyCredentialDescriptor structures, each denoting a credential, as specified in <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> . If this parameter is present and has 1 or more entries, the authenticator MUST only generate an assertion using one of the denoted credentials.
extensions	CBOR map of <a href="#">extension identifier</a> → <a href="#">authenticator extension input</a> values	Optional	Parameters to influence authenticator operation. These parameters might be authenticator specific.
			Parameters to influence

options	Map of authenticator options	Optional	authenticator operation, as specified in the table below.
pinAuth	Byte Array	Optional	First 16 bytes of HMAC-SHA-256 of clientDataHash using <a href="#">pinToken</a> which <a href="#">platform got from the authenticator</a> : HMAC-SHA-256(pinToken, clientDataHash).
pinProtocol	Unsigned Integer	Optional	PIN protocol version selected by client.

The following values are defined for use in the options parameter. All options are booleans.

Key	Default value	Definition
up	true	user presence: Instructs the authenticator to require user consent to complete the operation.
uv	false	user verification: Instructs the authenticator to require a gesture that verifies the user to complete the request. Examples of such gestures are fingerprint scan or a PIN.

Note that the [\[WebAuthN\]](#) specification defines an abstract `authenticatorGetAssertion` operation, which corresponds to the operation described in this section. The parameters in the abstract [\[WebAuthN\]](#) `authenticatorGetAssertion` operation map to the above parameters as follows:

<a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> <code>authenticatorGetAssertion</code> operation	CTAP <code>authenticatorGetAssertion</code> operation
hash	clientDataHash
rpld	rpld
allowCredentialDescriptorList	allowList
requireUserPresence	options.up
requireUserVerification	options.uv or pinAuth/pinProtocol
extensions	extensions

When an `authenticatorGetAssertion` request is received, the authenticator performs the following procedure:

1. Locate all credentials that are eligible for retrieval under the specified criteria:
  - If an `allowList` is present and is non-empty, locate all denoted credentials present on this authenticator and bound to the specified `rpld`.
  - If an `allowList` is not present, locate all credentials that are present on this authenticator and bound to the specified `rpld`.
  - Let `numberOfCredentials` be the number of credentials found.
2. If `pinAuth` parameter is present and `pinProtocol` is 1, verify it by matching it against first 16 bytes of HMAC-SHA-256 of `clientDataHash` parameter using [pinToken](#): `HMAC-SHA-256(pinToken, clientDataHash)`.
  - If the verification succeeds, set the "uv" bit to 1 in the response.
  - If the verification fails, return `CTAP2_ERR_PIN_AUTH_INVALID` error.
3. If `pinAuth` parameter is present and the `pinProtocol` is not supported, return `CTAP2_ERR_PIN_AUTH_INVALID`.

4. If [pinAuth](#) parameter is not present and [clientPin](#) has been set on the authenticator, set the "uv" bit to 0 in the response.
5. If the options parameter is present, process all the options. If the option is known but not supported, terminate this procedure and return CTAP2\_ERR\_UNSUPPORTED\_OPTION. If the option is known but not valid for this command, terminate this procedure and return CTAP2\_ERR\_INVALID\_OPTION. Ignore any options that are not understood. Note that because this specification defines normative behaviors for them, all authenticators MUST understand the "rk", "up", and "uv" options.
6. Optionally, if the extensions parameter is present, process any extensions that this authenticator supports. Authenticator extension outputs generated by the authenticator extension processing are returned in the [authenticator data](#).
7. Collect user consent if required. This step MUST happen before the following steps due to privacy reasons (i.e., authenticator cannot disclose existence of a credential until the user interacted with the device):
  - If the "uv" option was specified and set to true:
    - If device doesn't support user-identifiable gestures, return the CTAP2\_ERR\_UNSUPPORTED\_OPTION error.
    - Collect a user-identifiable gesture. If gesture validation fails, return the CTAP2\_ERR\_OPERATION\_DENIED error.
  - If the "up" option was specified and set to true, collect the user's consent.
    - If no consent is obtained and a timeout occurs, return the CTAP2\_ERR\_OPERATION\_DENIED error.
8. If no credentials were located in step 1, return CTAP2\_ERR\_NO\_CREDENTIALS.
9. If more than one credential was located in step 1, order the credentials by the time when they were created in reverse order. The first credential is the most recent credential that was created.
10. If authenticator does not have a display:
  - Remember the authenticatorGetAssertion parameters.
  - Create a credential counter(credentialCounter) and set it 1. This counter signifies how many credentials are sent to the platform by the authenticator.
  - Start a timer. This is used during authenticatorGetNextAssertion command. This step is optional if transport is done over NFC.
  - Update the response to include the first credential's publicKeyCredentialUserEntity information and numberOfCredentials. User identifiable information (name, DisplayName, icon) inside publicKeyCredentialUserEntity MUST not be returned if user verification is not done by the authenticator.
11. If authenticator has a display:
  - Display all these credentials to the user, using their friendly name along with other stored account information.
  - Also, display the rpId of the requester (specified in the request) and ask the user to select a credential.
  - If the user declines to select a credential or takes too long (as determined by the authenticator), terminate this procedure and return the CTAP2\_ERR\_OPERATION\_DENIED error.
12. Sign the clientDataHash along with authData with the selected credential, using the structure specified in [WebAuthN](#).

On success, the authenticator returns the following structure in its response:

Member name	Data type	Required?	Definition
			PublicKeyCredentialDescriptor

credential	PublicKeyCredentialDescriptor	Optional	structure containing the credential identifier whose private key was used to generate the assertion. May be omitted if the allowList has exactly one Credential.
authData	Byte Array	Required	The signed-over contextual bindings made by the authenticator, as specified in <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> .
signature	Byte Array	Required	The <a href="#">assertion signature</a> produced by the authenticator, as specified in <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> .
user	PublicKeyCredentialUserEntity	Optional	<p>PublicKeyCredentialUserEntity structure containing the user account information. User identifiable information (name, DisplayName, icon) MUST not be returned if user verification is not done by the authenticator.</p> <p>U2F Devices: For U2F devices, this parameter is not returned as this user information is not present for U2F credentials.</p> <p>FIDO Devices - server resident credentials: For server resident credentials on FIDO devices, this parameter is optional as server resident credentials behave same as U2F credentials where they are discovered given the user information on the RP. Authenticators optionally MAY store user information inside the credential ID.</p> <p>FIDO devices - device resident credentials: For device resident keys on FIDO devices, at least user "id" is mandatory.</p> <p>For single account per RP case, authenticator returns "id" field to the platform which will be returned to the <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> layer.</p> <p>For multiple accounts per RP</p>

			case, where the authenticator does not have a display, authenticator returns "id" as well as other fields to the platform. Platform will use this information to show the account selection UX to the user and for the user selected account, it will ONLY return "id" back to the <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> layer and discard other user details.
numberOfCredentials	Integer	Optional	Total number of account credentials for the RP. This member is required when more than one account for the RP and the authenticator does not have a display. Omitted when returned for the authenticatorGetNextAssertion method.

Within the "flags" bits of the authenticator data structure returned, the authenticator will report what was actually done within the authenticator boundary. The meanings of the combinations of the User Present (UP) and User Verified (UV) flags are as follows:

Flags	Meaning
"up"=0 "uv"=0	Silent authentication
"up"=1 "uv"=0	Physical user presence verified, but no user verification
"up"=0 "uv"=1	User verification performed, but physical user presence not verified (a typical "smartcard scenario")
"up"=1 "uv"=1	User verification performed and physical user presence verified

### 5.3. authenticatorGetNextAssertion (0x08)§

The client calls this method when the authenticatorGetAssertion response contains the numberOfCredentials member and the number of credentials exceeds 1. This method is used to obtain the next per-credential signature for a given authenticatorGetAssertion request.

This method takes no arguments as it is always follows a call to authenticatorGetAssertion or authenticatorGetNextAssertion.

When such a request is received, the authenticator performs the following procedure:

1. If authenticator does not remember any authenticatorGetAssertion parameters, return CTAP2\_ERR\_NOT\_ALLOWED.
2. If the credentialCounter is equal to or greater than numberOfCredentials, return CTAP2\_ERR\_NOT\_ALLOWED.

3. If timer since the last call to authenticatorGetAssertion/authenticatorGetNextAssertion is greater than 30 seconds, discard the current authenticatorGetAssertion state and return CTAP2\_ERR\_NOT\_ALLOWED. This step is optional if transport is done over NFC.
4. Sign the clientDataHash along with authData with the credential using credentialCounter as index (e.g., credentials[n] assuming 0-based array), using the structure specified in [\[WebAuthN\]](#).
5. Reset the timer. This step is optional if transport is done over NFC.
6. Increment credentialCounter.

On success, the authenticator returns the same structure as returned by the authenticatorGetAssertion method. The numberOfCredentials member is omitted.

### 5.3.1. Client Logic§

If client receives numberOfCredentials member value exceeding 1 in response to the authenticatorGetAssertion call:

1. Call authenticatorGetNextAssertion numberOfCredentials minus 1 times.
  - Make sure 'rp' member matches the current request.
  - Remember the 'response' member.
  - Add credential user information to the 'credentialInfo' list.
2. Draw a UX that displays credentialInfo list.
3. Let user select which credential to use.
4. Return the value of the 'response' member associated with the user choice.
5. Discard all other responses.

### 5.4. authenticatorGetInfo (0x04)§

Using this method, the host can request that the authenticator report a list of all supported protocol versions, supported extensions, AAGUID of the device, and its capabilities. This method takes no inputs.

On success, the authenticator returns:

Member name	Data type	Required?	Definition
versions	Sequence of strings	Required	List of supported versions. Supported versions are: "FIDO_2_0" for CTAP2 / FIDO2 / Web Authentication authenticators and "U2F_V2" for CTAP1/U2F authenticators.
extensions	Sequence of strings	Optional	List of supported extensions.
aaguid	Byte String	Required	The claimed AAGUID. 16 bytes in length and encoded the same as MakeCredential AuthenticatorData, as specified in <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> .
options	Map	Optional	List of supported options.
maxMsgSize	Unsigned Integer	Optional	Maximum message size supported by the authenticator.

pinProtocols	Array of Unsigned Integers	Optional	List of supported PIN Protocol versions.
--------------	----------------------------	----------	--

All options are in the form key-value pairs with string IDs and boolean values. When an option is not present, the default is applied per table below. The following is a list of supported options:

Option ID	Definition	Default
plat	platform device: Indicates that the device is attached to the client and therefore can't be removed and used on another client.	false
rk	resident key: Indicates that the device is capable of storing keys on the device itself and therefore can satisfy the authenticatorGetAssertion request with allowList parameter not specified or empty.	false
clientPin	<p>Client PIN:</p> <p>If present and set to true, it indicates that the device is capable of accepting a PIN from the client and PIN has been set.</p> <p>If present and set to false, it indicates that the device is capable of accepting a PIN from the client and PIN has not been set yet.</p> <p>If absent, it indicates that the device is not capable of accepting a PIN from the client.</p> <p>Client PIN is one of the ways to do user verification.</p>	Not supported
up	user presence: Indicates that the device is capable of testing user presence.	true
uv	<p>user verification: Indicates that the device is capable of verifying the user within itself. For example, devices with UI, biometrics fall into this category.</p> <p>If present and set to true, it indicates that the device is capable of user verification within itself and has been configured.</p> <p>If present and set to false, it indicates that the device is capable of user verification within itself and has not been yet configured. For example, a biometric device that has not yet been configured will return this parameter set to false.</p> <p>If absent, it indicates that the device is not capable of user verification within itself.</p> <p>A device that can only do Client PIN will not return the "uv" parameter.</p> <p>If a device is capable of verifying the user within itself as well as able to do Client PIN, it will return both "uv" and the Client PIN option.</p>	Not Supported

### 5.5. authenticatorClientPIN (0x06)§

One of the design goals of this command is to have minimum burden on the authenticator and to not send actual encrypted PIN to the authenticator in normal authenticator usage scenarios to have more security. Hence, below design only sends PIN in encrypted format while setting or changing a PIN. On normal PIN usage scenarios, design uses randomized [pinToken](#) which gets generated every power cycle.

This command is used by the platform to [establish key agreement with authenticator and getting sharedSecret](#), [setting a new PIN on the authenticator](#), [changing existing PIN on the authenticator](#) and [getting "pinToken" from the authenticator](#) which can be used in subsequent [authenticatorMakeCredential](#) and [authenticatorGetAssertion](#) operations.

It takes the following input parameters:

Parameter name	Data type	Required?	Definition
pinProtocol	Unsigned Integer	Required	PIN protocol version chosen by the client. For this version of the spec, this SHALL be the number 1.
subCommand	Unsigned Integer	Required	The authenticator Client PIN sub command currently being requested
keyAgreement	COSE_Key	Optional	Public key of <a href="#">platformKeyAgreementKey</a> . The COSE_Key-encoded public key MUST contain the optional "alg" parameter and MUST NOT contain any other optional parameters. The "alg" parameter MUST contain a COSEAlgorithmIdentifier value.
pinAuth	Byte Array	Optional	First 16 bytes of HMAC-SHA-256 of encrypted contents using <a href="#">sharedSecret</a> . See <a href="#">Setting a new PIN</a> , <a href="#">Changing existing PIN</a> and <a href="#">Getting pinToken from the authenticator</a> for more details.
newPinEnc	Byte Array	Optional	Encrypted new PIN using <a href="#">sharedSecret</a> . Encryption is done over UTF-8 representation of new PIN.
pinHashEnc	Byte Array	Optional	Encrypted first 16 bytes of SHA-256 of PIN using <a href="#">sharedSecret</a> .

The list of sub commands for PIN Protocol Version 1 is:

subCommand Name	subCommand Number
getRetries	0x01
getKeyAgreement	0x02
setPIN	0x03
changePIN	0x04
getPINToken	0x05

On success, authenticator returns the following structure in its response:

Parameter name	Data type	Required?	Definition
KeyAgreement	COSE_Key	Optional	Authenticator key agreement public key in COSE_Key format. This will be used to <a href="#">establish a sharedSecret</a> between platform and the authenticator. The COSE_Key-encoded public key MUST contain the optional "alg" parameter and MUST NOT contain any other optional parameters. The "alg" parameter MUST contain a COSEAlgorithmIdentifier value.

<a href="#">pinToken</a>	Byte Array	Optional	Encrypted <a href="#">pinToken</a> using <a href="#">sharedSecret</a> to be used in subsequent <a href="#">authenticatorMakeCredential</a> and <a href="#">authenticatorGetAssertion</a> operations.
retries	Unsigned Integer	Optional	Number of PIN attempts remaining before lockout. This is optionally used to show in UI when collecting the PIN in <a href="#">Setting a new PIN</a> , <a href="#">Changing existing PIN</a> and <a href="#">Getting pinToken from the authenticator</a> flows.

### 5.5.1. Client PIN Support Requirements

- Platform has to fulfill following PIN support requirements while gathering input from the user:
  - Minimum PIN Length: 4 Unicode characters
  - Maximum PIN Length: UTF-8 representation must not exceed 255 bytes
- Authenticator has to fulfill following PIN support requirements:
  - Minimum PIN Length: 4 bytes
  - Maximum PIN Length: 255 bytes
  - Maximum consecutive incorrect PIN attempts: 8
    - [retries](#) counter represents the number of attempts left before PIN is blocked.
    - Each correct PIN entry resets the [retries](#) counter back to 8 unless the PIN is already blocked.
    - Each incorrect PIN entry decrements the [retries](#) by 1.
    - Once the [retries](#) counter reaches 0, the [authenticator has to be reset](#) before any further operations can happen that require a PIN.
  - PIN storage on the device has to be of the same or better security assurances as of private keys on the device.

Note: Authenticators can implement minimum PIN lengths that are longer than 4 characters.

### 5.5.2. Authenticator Configuration Operations Upon Power Up

Authenticator generates following configuration at power up. This is to have less burden on the authenticator as key agreement is an expensive operation. This also ensures randomness across power cycles.

Following are the operations authenticator performs on each powerup:

- Generate "**authenticatorKeyAgreementKey**":
  - Generate an ECDH P-256 key pair called "authenticatorKeyAgreementKey" denoted by (a, aG) where "a" denotes the private key and "aG" denotes the public key.
    - See [\[RFC6090\]](#) Section 4.1 and [\[SP800-56A\]](#) for more ECDH key agreement protocol details.
- Generate "**pinToken**":
  - Generate a random integer of length which is multiple of 16 bytes (AES block length).
  - "pinToken" is used so that there is minimum burden on the authenticator and platform does not have to not send actual encrypted PIN to the authenticator in normal authenticator usage scenarios. This also provides more security as we are not sending actual PIN even in encrypted form. "pinToken" will be given to the platform upon verification of the PIN to be used in subsequent [authenticatorMakeCredential](#) and [authenticatorGetAssertion](#) operations.

### 5.5.3. Getting Retries from Authenticator§

Retries count is the number of attempts remaining before lockout. When the device is nearing authenticator lockout, the platform can optionally warn the user to be careful while entering the PIN.

Platform performs the following operations to get [retries](#):

- Platform sends [authenticatorClientPIN](#) command with following parameters to the authenticator:
  - pinProtocol: 0x01
  - subCommand: getRetries(0x01)
- Authenticator responds back with [retries](#).

### 5.5.4. Getting sharedSecret from Authenticator§

Platform does the ECDH key agreement to arrive at sharedSecret to be used only during that transaction. Authenticator does not have to keep a list of sharedSecrets for all active sessions. If there are subsequent authenticatorClientPIN transactions, a new sharedSecret is generated every time.

Platform performs the following operations to arrive at the sharedSecret:

- Platform sends [authenticatorClientPIN](#) command with following parameters to the authenticator:
  - pinProtocol: 0x01
  - subCommand: getKeyAgreement(0x02)
- Authenticator responds back with [public key of authenticatorKeyAgreementKey, "aG"](#).
- Platform generates "**platformKeyAgreementKey**":
  - Platform generates ECDH P-256 key pair called "platformKeyAgreementKey" denoted by (b, bG) where "b" denotes the private key and "bG" denotes the public key.
- Platform generates "**sharedSecret**"
  - Platform generates "sharedSecret" using SHA-256 over ECDH key agreement protocol using [private key of platformKeyAgreementKey, "b"](#) and [public key of authenticatorKeyAgreementKey, "aG"](#):  $\text{SHA-256}((baG) \cdot x)$ .
    - SHA-256 is done over only "x" curve point of baG.
    - See [\[RFC6090\]](#) Section 4.1 and appendix (C.2) of [\[SP800-56A\]](#) for more ECDH key agreement protocol details and key representation.

### 5.5.5. Setting a New PIN§

Following operations are performed to set up a new PIN:

- Platform [gets sharedSecret](#) from the authenticator.
- Platform collects new PIN ("newPinUnicode") from the user in Unicode format.
  - Platform checks the Unicode character length of "newPinUnicode" against the minimum 4 Unicode character requirement and returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_POLICY\_VIOLATION if the check fails.
  - Let "newPin" be the UTF-8 representation of "newPinUnicode".
    - Platform checks the byte length of "newPin" against the max UTF-8 representation limit of 255 bytes and returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_POLICY\_VIOLATION if the check fails.
- Platform sends [§5.5 authenticatorClientPIN \(0x06\)](#) command with following parameters to the authenticator:
  - pinProtocol: 0x01.

- subCommand: setPIN(0x03).
- keyAgreement: [public key of platformKeyAgreementKey](#), "bG".
- newPinEnc: Encrypted newPin using [sharedSecret](#): AES256-CBC(sharedSecret, IV=0, newPin).
  - During encryption, newPin is padded with trailing 0x00 bytes and is of minimum 64 bytes length. This is to prevent leak of PIN length while communicating to the authenticator. There is no PKCS #7 padding used in this scheme.
- pinAuth: LEFT(HMAC-SHA-256(sharedSecret, newPinEnc), 16).
  - The platform sends the first 16 bytes of the HMAC-SHA-256 result.
- Authenticator performs following operations upon receiving the request:
  - If Authenticator does not receive mandatory parameters for this command, it returns CTAP2\_ERR\_MISSING\_PARAMETER error.
  - If a PIN has already been set, authenticator returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_INVALID error.
  - Authenticator generates "sharedSecret": SHA-256((abG).x) using [private key of authenticatorKeyAgreementKey](#), "a" and [public key of platformKeyAgreementKey](#), "bG".
    - SHA-256 is done over only "x" curve point of "abG"
    - See [\[RFC6090\]](#) Section 4.1 and appendix (C.2) of [\[SP800-56A\]](#) for more ECDH key agreement protocol details and key representation.
  - Authenticator verifies pinAuth by generating LEFT(HMAC-SHA-256(sharedSecret, newPinEnc), 16) and matching against input pinAuth parameter.
    - If pinAuth verification fails, authenticator returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_INVALID error.
  - Authenticator decrypts newPinEnc using above "sharedSecret" producing newPin and checks newPin length against minimum PIN length of 4 characters.
    - The decrypted padded newPin should be of at least 64 bytes length and authenticator determines actual PIN length by looking for first 0x00 byte which terminates the PIN.
    - If minimum PIN length check fails, authenticator returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_POLICY\_VIOLATION error.
    - Authenticator may have additional constraints for PIN policy. The current spec only enforces minimum length of 4 characters.
  - Authenticator stores LEFT(SHA-256(newPin), 16) on the device, sets the [retries](#) counter to 8, and returns CTAP2\_OK.

### 5.5.6. Changing existing PIN§

Following operations are performed to change an existing PIN:

- Platform [gets sharedSecret](#) from the authenticator.
- Platform collects current PIN ("curPinUnicode") and new PIN ("newPinUnicode") from the user.
  - Platform checks the Unicode character length of "newPinUnicode" against the minimum 4 Unicode character requirement and returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_POLICY\_VIOLATION if the check fails.
  - Let "curPin" be the UTF-8 representation of "curPinUnicode" and "newPin" be the UTF-8 representation of "newPinUnicode"
    - Platform checks the byte length of "curPin" and "newPin" against the max UTF-8 representation limit of 255 bytes and returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_POLICY\_VIOLATION if the check fails.
- Platform sends [authenticatorClientPIN](#) command with following parameters to the authenticator:

- pinProtocol: 0x01.
- subCommand: changePIN(0x04).
- keyAgreement: [public key of platformKeyAgreementKey](#), "bG".
- pinHashEnc: Encrypted first 16 bytes of SHA-256 hash of curPin using [sharedSecret](#): AES256-CBC(sharedSecret, IV=0, LEFT(SHA-256(curPin), 16)).
- newPinEnc: Encrypted "newPin" using [sharedSecret](#): AES256-CBC(sharedSecret, IV=0, newPin).
  - During encryption, newPin is padded with trailing 0x00 bytes and is of minimum 64 bytes length. This is to prevent leak of PIN length while communicating to the authenticator. There is no PKCS #7 padding used in this scheme.
- pinAuth: LEFT(HMAC-SHA-256(sharedSecret, newPinEnc || pinHashEnc), 16).
  - The platform sends the first 16 bytes of the HMAC-SHA-256 result.
- Authenticator performs following operations upon receiving the request:
  - If Authenticator does not receive mandatory parameters for this command, it returns CTAP2\_ERR\_MISSING\_PARAMETER error.
  - If the [retries](#) counter is 0, return CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_BLOCKED error.
  - Authenticator generates "sharedSecret": SHA-256((abG).x) using [private key of authenticatorKeyAgreementKey](#), "a" and [public key of platformKeyAgreementKey](#), "bG".
    - SHA-256 is done over only "x" curve point of "abG"
    - See [\[RFC6090\]](#) Section 4.1 and appendix (C.2) of [\[SP800-56A\]](#) for more ECDH key agreement protocol details and key representation.
  - Authenticator verifies pinAuth by generating LEFT(HMAC-SHA-256(sharedSecret, newPinEnc || pinHashEnc), 16) and matching against input pinAuth parameter.
    - If pinAuth verification fails, authenticator returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_INVALID error.
  - Authenticator decrypts pinHashEnc and verifies against its internal stored LEFT(SHA-256(curPin), 16).
    - If a mismatch is detected, the authenticator performs the following operations:
      - Authenticator generates a new **"authenticatorKeyAgreementKey"**.
        - Generate a new ECDH P-256 key pair called "authenticatorKeyAgreementKey" denoted by (a, aG), where "a" denotes the private key and "aG" denotes the public key.
          - See [\[RFC6090\]](#) Section 4.1 and [\[SP800-56A\]](#) for more ECDH key agreement protocol details.
      - Authenticator decrements the [retries](#) counter by 1.
      - Authenticator returns errors according to following conditions:
        - If the [retries](#) counter is 0, return CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_BLOCKED error.
        - If the authenticator sees 3 consecutive mismatches, it returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_BLOCKED, indicating that power cycling is needed for further operations. This is done so that malware running on the platform should not be able to block the device without user interaction.
        - Else return CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_INVALID error.
  - Authenticator decrypts newPinEnc using above "sharedSecret" producing newPin and checks newPin length against minimum PIN length of 4 characters.

- The decrypted padded newPin should be of at least 64 bytes length and authenticator determines actual PIN length by looking for first 0x00 byte which terminates the PIN.
  - If minimum PIN length check fails, authenticator returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_POLICY\_VIOLATION error.
  - Authenticator may have additional constraints for PIN policy. The current spec only enforces minimum length of 4 characters.
- Authenticator stores  $\text{LEFT}(\text{SHA-256}(\text{newPin}), 16)$  on the device and returns CTAP2\_OK.

### 5.5.7. Getting pinToken from the Authenticator§

This step only has to be performed once for the lifetime of the authenticator/platform handle. Getting pinToken once provides allows high security without any additional roundtrips every time (except for the first key-agreement phase) and its overhead is minimal.

Following operations are performed to get pinToken which will be used in subsequent [authenticatorMakeCredential](#) and [authenticatorGetAssertion](#) operations:

- Platform [gets sharedSecret](#) from the authenticator.
- Platform collects PIN from the user.
- Platform sends [authenticatorClientPIN](#) command with following parameters to the authenticator:
  - pinProtocol: 0x01.
  - subCommand: getPinToken(0x05).
  - keyAgreement: [public key of platformKeyAgreementKey](#), "bG".
  - pinHashEnc:  $\text{AES256-CBC}(\text{sharedSecret}, \text{IV}=0, \text{LEFT}(\text{SHA-256}(\text{PIN}), 16))$ .
- Authenticator performs following operations upon receiving the request:
  - If Authenticator does not receive mandatory parameters for this command, it returns CTAP2\_ERR\_MISSING\_PARAMETER error.
  - If the [retries](#) counter is 0, return CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_BLOCKED error.
  - Authenticator generates "sharedSecret":  $\text{SHA-256}((\text{abG}) \cdot x)$  using [private key of authenticatorKeyAgreementKey](#), "a" and [public key of platformKeyAgreementKey](#), "bG".
    - SHA-256 is done over only "x" curve point of "abG"
      - See [\[RFC6090\]](#) Section 4.1 and appendix (C.2) of [\[SP800-56A\]](#) for more ECDH key agreement protocol details and key representation.
  - Authenticator decrypts pinHashEnc and verifies against its internal stored  $\text{LEFT}(\text{SHA-256}(\text{curPin}), 16)$ .
    - If a mismatch is detected, the authenticator performs the following operations:
      - Authenticator generates a new "[authenticatorKeyAgreementKey](#)".
        - Generate a new ECDH P-256 key pair called "authenticatorKeyAgreementKey" denoted by (a, aG), where "a" denotes the private key and "aG" denotes the public key.
          - See [\[RFC6090\]](#) Section 4.1 and [\[SP800-56A\]](#) for more ECDH key agreement protocol details.
      - Authenticator decrements the [retries](#) counter by 1.
      - Authenticator returns errors according to following conditions:
        - If the [retries](#) counter is 0, return CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_BLOCKED error.

- If the authenticator sees 3 consecutive mismatches, it returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_BLOCKED, indicating that power cycling is needed for further operations. This is done so that malware running on the platform should not be able to block the device without user interaction.
  - Else return CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_INVALID error.
- Authenticator returns encrypted pinToken using "sharedSecret":AES256-CBC(sharedSecret, IV=0, pinToken).
- pinToken should be a multiple of 16 bytes (AES block length) without any padding or IV. There is no PKCS #7 padding used in this scheme.

### 5.5.8. Using pinToken§

Platform has the flexibility to manage the lifetime of pinToken based on the scenario however it should get rid of the pinToken as soon as possible when not required. Authenticator also can expire pinToken based on certain conditions like changing a PIN, timeout happening on authenticator, machine waking up from a suspend state etc. If pinToken has expired, authenticator will return CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_TOKEN\_EXPIRED and platform can act on the error accordingly.

#### 5.5.8.1. Using pinToken in [authenticatorMakeCredential§](#)

Following operations are performed to use [pinToken](#) in authenticatorMakeCredential API:

- Platform [gets pinToken](#) from the authenticator.
- Platform sends authenticatorMakeCredential command with following additional optional parameter:
  - pinProtocol: 0x01.
  - pinAuth: LEFT(HMAC-SHA-256(pinToken, clientDataHash), 16).
    - The platform sends the first 16 bytes of the HMAC-SHA-256 result.
- Authenticator verifies pinAuth by generating LEFT(HMAC-SHA-256(pinToken, clientDataHash), 16) and matching against input pinAuth parameter.
  - If pinAuth verification fails, authenticator returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_INVALID error.
  - If authenticator sees 3 consecutive mismatches, it returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_BLOCKED indicating that power recycle is needed for further operations. This is done so that malware running on the platform should not be able to block the device without user interaction.
- Authenticator returns authenticatorMakeCredential response with "uv" bit set to 1.

If platform sends zero length pinAuth, authenticator needs to wait for user touch and then returns either CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_NOT\_SET if pin is not set or CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_INVALID if pin has been set. This is done for the case where multiple authenticators are attached to the platform and the platform wants to enforce clientPin semantics, but the user has to select which authenticator to send the pinToken to.

#### 5.5.8.2. Using pinToken in [authenticatorGetAssertion§](#)

Following operations are performed to use [pinToken](#) in authenticatorGetAssertion API:

- Platform [gets pinToken](#) from the authenticator.
- Platform sends authenticatorGetAssertion command with following additional optional parameter:
  - pinProtocol: 0x01.

- pinAuth: LEFT(HMAC-SHA-256(pinToken, clientDataHash), 16).
- Authenticator verifies pinAuth by generating LEFT(HMAC-SHA-256(pinToken, clientDataHash), 16) and matching against input pinAuth parameter.
  - If pinAuth verification fails, authenticator returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_INVALID error.
  - If authenticator sees 3 consecutive mismatches, it returns CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_AUTH\_BLOCKED indicating that power recycle is needed for further operations. This is done so that malware running on the platform should not be able to block the device without user interaction.
- Authenticator returns authenticatorGetAssertion response with "uv" bit set to 1.

If platform sends zero length pinAuth, authenticator needs to wait for user touch and then returns either CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_NOT\_SET if pin is not set or CTAP2\_ERR\_PIN\_INVALID if pin has been set. This is done for the case where multiple authenticators are attached to the platform and the platform wants to enforce clientPin semantics, but the user has to select which authenticator to send the pinToken to.

#### 5.5.8.3. Without pinToken in [authenticatorGetAssertion](#)s

Following operations are performed without using [pinToken](#) in authenticatorGetAssertion API:

- Platform sends authenticatorGetAssertion command without pinAuth optional parameter.
- Authenticator returns authenticatorGetAssertion response with "uv" bit set to 0.

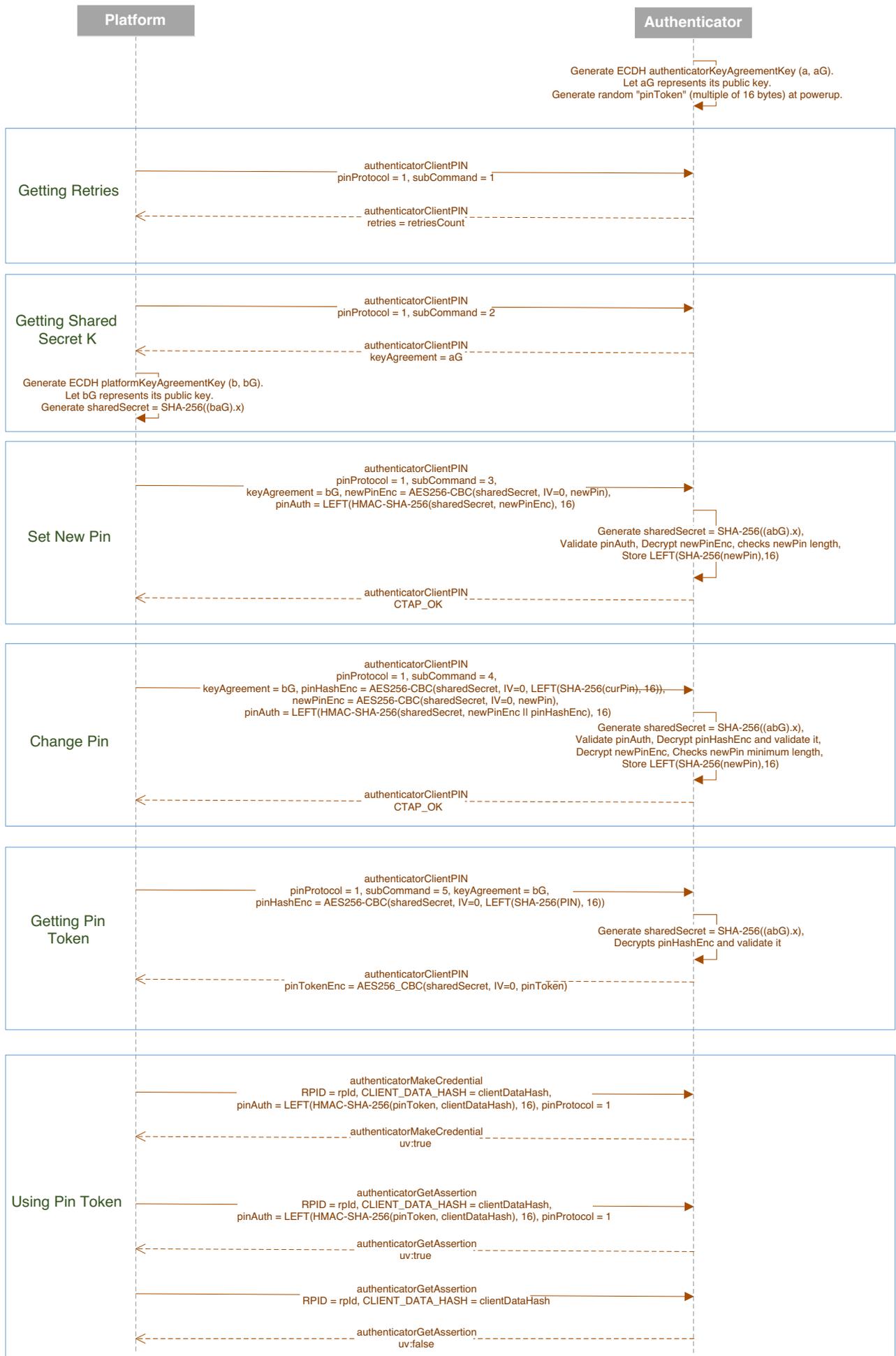


Figure 1 Client PIN

## 5.6. authenticatorReset (0x07)§

This method is used by the client to reset an authenticator back to a factory default state, invalidating all generated credentials. In order to prevent accidental trigger of this mechanism, some form of user approval MAY be performed on the authenticator itself, meaning that the client will have to poll the device until the reset has been performed. The actual user-flow to perform the reset will vary depending on the authenticator and it outside the scope of this specification.

## 6. Message Encoding§

Many transports (e.g., Bluetooth Smart) are bandwidth-constrained, and serialization formats such as JSON are too heavy-weight for such environments. For this reason, all encoding is done using the concise binary encoding CBOR [\[RFC7049\]](#).

To reduce the complexity of the messages and the resources required to parse and validate them, all messages MUST use the [CTAP2 canonical CBOR encoding form](#) as specified below, which differs from the canonicalization suggested [CTAP2 canonical CBOR encoding form](#) as specified in Section 3.9 of [\[RFC7049\]](#). All encoders MUST serialize CBOR in the [CTAP2 canonical CBOR encoding form](#) without duplicate map keys. All decoders SHOULD reject CBOR that is not validly encoded in the [CTAP2 canonical CBOR encoding form](#) and SHOULD reject messages with duplicate map keys.

The **CTAP2 canonical CBOR encoding form** uses the following rules:

- Integers must be encoded as small as possible.
  - 0 to 23 and -1 to -24 must be expressed in the same byte as the major type;
  - 24 to 255 and -25 to -256 must be expressed only with an additional uint8\_t;
  - 256 to 65535 and -257 to -65536 must be expressed only with an additional uint16\_t;
  - 65536 to 4294967295 and -65537 to -4294967296 must be expressed only with an additional uint32\_t.
- The representations of any floating-point values are not changed.
- The expression of lengths in major types 2 through 5 must be as short as possible. The rules for these lengths follow the above rule for integers.
- Indefinite-length items must be made into definite-length items.
- The keys in every map must be sorted lowest value to highest. The sorting rules are:
  - If the major types are different, the one with the lower value in numerical order sorts earlier.
  - If two keys have different lengths, the shorter one sorts earlier;
  - If two keys have the same length, the one with the lower value in (byte-wise) lexical order sorts earlier.

Note: These rules are equivalent to a lexicographical comparison of the canonical encoding of keys for major types 0-3 and 7 (integers, strings, and simple values). They differ for major types 4-6 (arrays, maps, and tags), which CTAP2 does not use as keys in maps. These rules should be revisited if CTAP2 does start using the complex major types as keys.

- Tags as defined in Section 2.4 in [\[RFC7049\]](#) MUST NOT be present.

Because some authenticators are memory constrained, the depth of nested CBOR structures used by all message encodings is limited to at most four (4) levels of any combination of CBOR maps and/or CBOR arrays. Authenticators MUST support at least 4 levels of CBOR nesting. Clients, platforms, and servers MUST NOT use more than 4 levels of CBOR nesting.

Likewise, because some authenticators are memory constrained, the maximum message size supported by an authenticator MAY be limited. By default, authenticators MUST support messages of at least 1024 bytes. Authenticators MAY declare a different maximum message size supported using the `maxMsgSize`

authenticatorGetInfo result parameter. Clients, platforms, and servers MUST NOT send messages larger than 1024 bytes unless the authenticator's maxMsgSize indicates support for the larger message size. Authenticators MAY return the CTAP2\_ERR\_REQUEST\_TOO\_LARGE error if size or memory constraints are exceeded.

If map keys are present that an implementation does not understand, they MUST be ignored. Note that this enables additional fields to be used as new features are added without breaking existing implementations.

Messages from the host to authenticator are called "commands" and messages from authenticator to host are called "replies". All values are big endian encoded.

Authenticators SHOULD return the CTAP2\_ERR\_INVALID\_CBOR error if received CBOR does not conform to the requirements above.

## 6.1. Commands

All commands are structured as:

Name	Length	Required?	Definition
Command Value	1 byte	Required	The value of the command to execute
Command Parameters	variable	Optional	CBOR <a href="#">[RFC7049]</a> encoded set of parameters. Some commands have parameters, while others do not (see below)

The assigned values for commands and their descriptions are:

Command Name	Command Value	Has parameters?
authenticatorMakeCredential	0x01	yes
authenticatorGetAssertion	0x02	yes
authenticatorGetInfo	0x04	no
authenticatorClientPIN	0x06	yes
authenticatorReset	0x07	no
authenticatorGetNextAssertion	0x08	no
authenticatorVendorFirst	0x40	NA
authenticatorVendorLast	0xBF	NA

Command codes in the range between **authenticatorVendorFirst** and **authenticatorVendorLast** may be used for vendor-specific implementations. For example, the vendor may choose to put in some testing commands. Note that the FIDO client will never generate these commands. All other command codes are reserved for future use and may not be used.

Command parameters are encoded using a CBOR map (CBOR major type 5). The CBOR map must be encoded using the definite length variant.

Some commands have optional parameters. Therefore, the length of the parameter map for these commands may vary. For example, authenticatorMakeCredential may have 4, 5, 6, or 7 parameters, while authenticatorGetAssertion may have 2, 3, 4, or 5 parameters.

All command parameters are CBOR encoded following the *JSON to CBOR* conversion procedures as per the CBOR specification [\[RFC7049\]](#). Specifically, parameters that are represented as DOM objects in the

Authenticator API layers (formally defined in the Web API[WebAuthN]) are converted first to JSON and subsequently to CBOR.

#### EXAMPLE 1

A PublicKeyCredentialRpEntity DOM object defined as follows:

```
var rp = {
  name: "Acme"
};
```

would be CBOR encoded as follows:

```
a1          # map(1)
 64         # text(4)
  6e616d65 # "name"
 64         # text(4)
  41636d65 # "Acme"
```

#### EXAMPLE 2

A PublicKeyCredentialUserEntity DOM object defined as follows:

```
var user = {
  id: Uint8Array.from(window.atob("MIIBkzCCATigAwIBAjCCAzMwggE4oAMCAQIwggGTMII="), c=>c.charCodeAt(0)),
  icon: "https://pics.example.com/00/p/aBjjjpqPb.png",
  name: "johnpsmith@example.com",
  displayName: "John P. Smith"
};
```

would be CBOR encoded as follows:

```
a4          # map(4)
 62         # text(2)
  6964      # "id"
 58 20      # bytes(32)
  3082019330820138a003020102 # userid
  3082019330820138a003020102 # ...
  308201933082             # ...
 64         # text(4)
  69636f6e # "icon"
 782b      # text(43)
  68747470733a2f2f706963732e657861 # "https://pics.example.com/00/p/aBjjjpqPb.
ng"
 6d706c652e636f6d2f30302f702f6142 # ...
 6a6a6a707150622e706e67           # ...
 64         # text(4)
  6e616d65 # "name"
 76        # text(22)
  6a6f686e70736d697468406578616d70 # "johnpsmith@example.com"
 6c652e636f6d                     # ...
 6b         # text(11)
  646973706c61794e616d65          # "displayName"
 6d         # text(13)
  4a6f686e20502e20536d697468     # "John P. Smith"
```

### EXAMPLE 3

A DOM object that is a sequence of `PublicKeyCredentialParameters` defined as follows:

```
var pubKeyCredParams = [  
  {  
    type: "public-key",  
    alg: -7 // "ES256" as registered in the IANA COSE Algorithms registry  
  },  
  {  
    type: "public-key",  
    alg: -257 // "RS256" as registered by WebAuthn  
  }  
];
```

would be CBOR encoded as:

```
82          # array(2)  
  a2        # map(2)  
    63      # text(3)  
      616c67 # "alg"  
    26      # -7 (ES256)  
    64      # text(4)  
      74797065 # "type"  
    6a      # text(10)  
      7075626c69632d6b6579 # "public-key"  
  a2        # map(2)  
    63      # text(3)  
      616c67 # "alg"  
    390100  # -257 (RS256)  
    64      # text(4)  
      74797065 # "type"  
    6a      # text(10)  
      7075626c69632d6b6579 # "public-key"
```

For each command that contains parameters, the parameter map keys and value types are specified below:

Command	Parameter Name	Key	Value type
authenticatorMakeCredential	clientDataHash	0x01	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	rp	0x02	CBOR definite length map (CBOR major type 5).
	user	0x03	CBOR definite length map (CBOR major type 5).
	pubKeyCredParams	0x04	CBOR definite length array (CBOR major type 4) of CBOR definite length maps (CBOR major type 5).
	excludeList	0x05	CBOR definite length array (CBOR major type 4) of CBOR definite length maps (CBOR major type 5).
	extensions	0x06	CBOR definite length map (CBOR major type 5).
	options	0x07	CBOR definite length map (CBOR major type 5).

	pinAuth	0x08	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	pinProtocol	0x09	PIN protocol version chosen by the client. For this version of the spec, this SHALL be the number 1.
authenticatorGetAssertion	rpld	0x01	UTF-8 encoded text string (CBOR major type 3).
	clientDataHash	0x02	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	allowList	0x03	CBOR definite length array (CBOR major type 4) of CBOR definite length maps (CBOR major type 5).
	extensions	0x04	CBOR definite length map (CBOR major type 5).
	options	0x05	CBOR definite length map (CBOR major type 5).
	pinAuth	0x06	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	pinProtocol	0x07	PIN protocol version chosen by the client. For this version of the spec, this SHALL be the number 1.
authenticatorClientPIN	pinProtocol	0x01	Unsigned Integer. (CBOR major type 0)
	subCommand	0x02	Unsigned Integer. (CBOR major type 0)
	keyAgreement	0x03	COSE_Key
	pinAuth	0x04	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	newPinEnc	0x05	byte string (CBOR major type 2). It is UTF-8 representation of encrypted input PIN value.
	pinHashEnc	0x06	byte string (CBOR major type 2).

#### EXAMPLE 4

The following is a complete encoding example of the `authenticatorMakeCredential` command (using same account and crypto parameters as above) and the corresponding `authenticatorMakeCredential_Response` response:

```

01 # authenticatorMakeCredential command
a5 # map(5)
  01 # unsigned(1) - clientDataHash
  58 20 # bytes(32)
    687134968222ec17202e42505f8ed2b1 # h'687134968222ec17202e42505f8ed2b16ae22f16bb05b88c25db9e602645f141'
    6ae22f16bb05b88c25db9e602645f141 #
  02 # unsigned(2) - rp
  a2 # map(2)
    62 # text(2)
      6964 # "id"
    6b # text(11)

```

```

6578616d706c652e636f6d # "example.com"
64 # text(4)
6e616d65 # "name"
64 # text(4)
41636d65 # "Acme"
03 # unsigned(3) - user
a4 # map(4)
62 # text(2)
6964 # "id"
58 20 # bytes(32)
3082019330820138a003020102 # userid
3082019330820138a003020102 # ...
308201933082 # ...
64 # text(4)
69636f6e # "icon"
78 2b # text(43)
68747470733a2f2f706963732e6578 # "https://pics.example.com/00/p/aBjjjqPb.png"
616d706c652e636f6d2f30302f702f #
61426a6a6a707150622e706e67 #
64 # text(4)
6e616d65 # "name"
76 # text(22)
6a6f686e70736d697468406578616d # "johnsmith@example.com"
706c652e636f6d # ...
6b # text(11)
646973706c61794e616d65 # "displayName"
6d # text(13)
4a6f686e20502e20536d697468 # "John P. Smith"
04 # unsigned(4) - pubKeyCredParams
82 # array(2)
a2 # map(2)
63 # text(3)
616c67 # "alg"
26 # -7 (ES256)
64 # text(4)
74797065 # "type"
6a # text(10)
7075626c69632d6b6579 # "public-key"
a2 # map(2)
63 # text(3)
616c67 # "alg"
390100 # -257 (RS256)
64 # text(4)
74797065 # "type"
6a # text(10)
7075626c69632d6b6579 # "public-key"
07 # unsigned(7) - options
a1 # map(1)
62 # text(2)
726b # "rk"
f5 # primitive(21)

```

authenticatorMakeCredential\_Response response:

```

00 # status = success
a3 # map(3)
01 # unsigned(1)
66 # text(6)
7061636b6564 # "packed"
02 # unsigned(2)
58 9a # bytes(154)

```

```

c289c5ca9d004b0t934bad4e4z0842/43 # autnData
404d31f4846825a6d065be597a87051d # ...
410000000bf8a011f38c0a4d15800617 # ...
111f9edc7d00108959cead5b5c48164e # ...
8abcd6d9435c6fa363616c6765455332 # ...
353661785820f7c4f4a6f1d79538dfa4 # ...
c9ac50848df708bc1c99f5e60e51b42a # ...
521b35d3b69a61795820de7b7d6ca564 # ...
e70ea321a4d5d96ea00ef0e2db89dd61 # ...
d4894c15ac585bd23684 # ...
03 # unsigned(3)
a3 # map(3)
63 # text(3)
616c67 # "alg"
26 # -7 (ES256)
63 # text(3)
736967 # "sig"
58 47 # bytes(71)
3045022013f73c5d9d530e8cc15cc9 # signature...
bd96ad586d393664e462d5f0561235 # ...
e6350f2b728902210090357ff910cc # ...
b56ac5b596511948581c8fddb4a2b7 # ...
9959948078b09f4bdc6229 # ...
63 # text(3)
783563 # "x5c"
81 # array(1)
59 0197 # bytes(407)
3082019330820138a003020102 # certificate...
020900859b726cb24b4c29300a # ...
06082a8648ce3d040302304731 # ...
0b300906035504061302555331 # ...
143012060355040a0c0b597562 # ...
69636f20546573743122302006 # ...
0355040b0c1941757468656e74 # ...
696361746f7220417474657374 # ...
6174696f6e301e170d31363132 # ...
30343131353530305a170d3236 # ...
313230323131353530305a3047 # ...
310b3009060355040613025553 # ...
31143012060355040a0c0b5975 # ...
6269636f205465737431223020 # ...
060355040b0c1941757468656e # ...
74696361746f72204174746573 # ...
746174696f6e3059301306072a # ...
8648ce3d020106082a8648ce3d # ...
03010703420004ad11eb0e8852 # ...
e53ad5dfed86b41e6134a18ec4 # ...
e1af8f221a3c7d6e636c80ea13 # ...
c3d504ff2e76211bb44525b196 # ...
c44cb4849979cf6f896ecd2bb8 # ...
60de1bf4376ba30d300b300906 # ...
03551d1304023000300a06082a # ...
8648ce3d040302034900304602 # ...
2100e9a39f1b03197525f7373e # ...
10ce77e78021731b94d0c03f3f # ...
da1fd22db3d030e7022100c4fa # ...
ec3445a820cf43129cdb00aabe # ...
fd9ae2d874f9c5d343cb2f113d # ...
a23723f3 # ...

```

## EXAMPLE 5

The following is a complete encoding example of the `authenticatorGetAssertion` command and the

The following is a complete encoding example of the authenticatorGetAssertion command and the corresponding authenticatorGetAssertion\_Response response:

```
02 # authenticatorGetAssertion command
a4 # map(4)
  01 # unsigned(1)
  6b # text(11)
    6578616d706c652e63666d # "example.com"
  02 # unsigned(2)
  58 20 # bytes(32)
    687134968222ec17202e42505f8ed2b1 # clientDataHash
    6ae22f16bb05b88c25db9e602645f141 # ...
  03 # unsigned(3)
  82 # array(2)
    a2 # map(2)
      62 # text(2)
        6964 # "id"
      58 40 # bytes(64)
        f22006de4f905af68a43942f02 # credential ID
        4f2a5ece603d9c6d4b3df8be08 # ...
        ed01fc442646d034858ac75bed # ...
        3fd580bf9808d94fcbee82b9b2 # ...
        ef6677af0adcc35852ea6b9e # ...
      64 # text(4)
        74797065 # "type"
      6a # text(10)
        7075626c69632d6b6579 # "public-key"
    a2 # map(2)
      62 # text(2)
        6964 # "id"
      58 32 # bytes(50)
        03030303030303030303030303 # credential ID
        030303030303030303030303 # ...
        030303030303030303030303 # ...
        0303030303030303030303 # ...
      64 # text(4)
        74797065 # "type"
      6a # text(10)
        7075626c69632d6b6579 # "public-key"
  05 # unsigned(5)
  a1 # map(1)
    62 # text(2)
      7576 # "uv"
  f5 # true
```

authenticatorGetAssertion\_Response response:

```
00 # status = success
a5 # map(5)
  01 # unsigned(1) - Credential
  a2 # map(2)
    62 # text(2)
      6964 # "id"
    58 40 # bytes(64)
      f22006de4f905af68a43942f02 # credential ID
      4f2a5ece603d9c6d4b3df8be08 # ...
      ed01fc442646d034858ac75bed # ...
      3fd580bf9808d94fcbee82b9b2 # ...
      ef6677af0adcc35852ea6b9e # ...
    64 # text(4)
      74797065 # "type"
    6a # text(10)
```

```

7075626C69632D6B6579      # "public-key"
02                          # unsigned(2)
58 25                       # bytes(37)
625ddadf743f5727e66bba8c2e387922 # authData
d1af43c503d9114a8fba104d84d02bfa # ...
0100000011                 # ...
03                          # unsigned(3)
58 47                       # bytes(71)
304502204a5a9dd39298149d904769b5 # signature
1a451433006f182a34fbdf66de5fc717 # ...
d75fb350022100a46b8ea3c3b933821c # ...
6e7f5ef9daae94ab47f18db474c74790 # ...
eaabb14411e7a0            # ...
04                          # unsigned(4) - publicKeyCredentialUserEntity
a4                          # map(4)
6b                          # text(11)
646973706c61794e616d65    # "displayName"
6d                          # text(13)
4a6f686e20502e20536d697468 # "John P. Smith"
64                          # text(4)
6e616d65                   # "name"
76                          # text(22)
6a6f686e70736d697468406578616d # "johnsmith@example.com"
706c652e636f6d            # ...
62                          # text(2)
6964                       # "id"
58 20                       # bytes(32)
3082019330820138a003020102 # userid
3082019330820138a003020102 # ...
308201933082              # ...
64                          # text(4)
69636f6e                   # "icon"
782b                       # text(43)
68747470733a2f2f706963732e6578 # "https://pics.example.com/00/p/aBjjjqPb.png"
616d706c652e636f6d2f30302f702f # ...
61426a6a6a707150622e706e67   # ...
05                          # unsigned(5) - numberOfCredentials
01                          # unsigned(1)

```

## 6.2. Responses§

All responses are structured as:

Name	Length	Required?	Definition
Status	1 byte	Required	The status of the response. 0x00 means success; all other values are errors. See the table in the next section for valid values.
Response Data	variable	Optional	CBOR encoded set of values.

Response data is encoded using a CBOR map (CBOR major type 5). The CBOR map must be encoded using the definite length variant.

For each response message, the map keys and value types are specified below:

Response Message	Member Name	Key	Value type
------------------	-------------	-----	------------

authenticatorMakeCredential_Response	fmt	0x01	text string (CBOR major type 3).
	authData	0x02	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	attStmt	0x03	definite length map (CBOR major type 5).
authenticatorGetAssertion_Response	credential	0x01	definite length map (CBOR major type 5).
	authData	0x02	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	signature	0x03	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	publicKeyCredentialUserEntity	0x04	definite length map (CBOR major type 5).
	numberOfCredentials	0x05	unsigned integer (CBOR major type 0).
authenticatorGetNextAssertion_Response	credential	0x01	definite length map (CBOR major type 5).
	authData	0x02	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	signature	0x03	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	publicKeyCredentialUserEntity	0x04	definite length map (CBOR major type 5).
authenticatorGetInfo_Response	versions	0x01	definite length array (CBOR major type 4) of UTF-8 encoded strings (CBOR major type 3).
	extensions	0x02	definite length array (CBOR major type 4) of UTF-8 encoded strings (CBOR major type 3).
	aaguid	0x03	byte string (CBOR major type 2). 16 bytes in length and encoded the same as MakeCredential AuthenticatorData, as specified in <a href="#">[WebAuthN]</a> .
			Definite length map (CBOR major type 5) of key-value pairs where

	options	0x04	keys are UTF8 strings (CBOR major type 3) and values are booleans (CBOR simple value 21).
	maxMsgSize	0x05	unsigned integer(CBOR major type 0). This is the maximum message size supported by the authenticator.
	pinProtocols	0x06	array of unsigned integers (CBOR major type). This is the list of pinProtocols supported by the authenticator.
authenticatorClientPIN_Response	keyAgreement	0x01	Authenticator public key in COSE_Key format. The COSE_Key-encoded public key MUST contain the optional "alg" parameter and MUST NOT contain any other optional parameters. The "alg" parameter MUST contain a COSEAlgorithmIdentifier value.
	<a href="#">pinToken</a>	0x02	byte string (CBOR major type 2).
	retries	0x03	Unsigned integer (CBOR major type 0). This is number of retries left before lockout.

### 6.3. Status codes§

The error response values range from 0x01 - 0xff. This range is split based on error type.

Error response values in the range between **CTAP2\_OK** and **CTAP2\_ERR\_SPEC\_LAST** are reserved for spec purposes.

Error response values in the range between **CTAP2\_ERR\_VENDOR\_FIRST** and **CTAP2\_ERR\_VENDOR\_LAST** may be used for vendor-specific implementations. All other response values are reserved for future use and may not be used. These vendor specific error codes are not interoperable and the platform should treat these errors as any other unknown error codes.

Error response values in the range between **CTAP2\_ERR\_EXTENSION\_FIRST** and **CTAP2\_ERR\_EXTENSION\_LAST** may be used for extension-specific implementations. These errors need to be interoperable for vendors who decide to implement such optional extension.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
0x00	CTAP1_ERR_SUCCESS	Indicates successful response.
0x01	CTAP1_ERR_INVALID_COMMAND	The command is not a valid CTAP command.
0x02	CTAP1_ERR_INVALID_PARAMETER	The command included an invalid parameter.
0x03	CTAP1_ERR_INVALID_LENGTH	Invalid message or item length.
0x04	CTAP1_ERR_INVALID_SEQ	Invalid message sequencing.
0x05	CTAP1_ERR_TIMEOUT	Message timed out.
0x06	CTAP1_ERR_CHANNEL_BUSY	Channel busy.
0x0A	CTAP1_ERR_LOCK_REQUIRED	Command requires channel lock.
0x0B	CTAP1_ERR_INVALID_CHANNEL	Command not allowed on this cid.
0x11	CTAP2_ERR_CBOR_UNEXPECTED_TYPE	Invalid/unexpected CBOR error.
0x12	CTAP2_ERR_INVALID_CBOR	Error when parsing CBOR.
0x14	CTAP2_ERR_MISSING_PARAMETER	Missing non-optional parameter.
0x15	CTAP2_ERR_LIMIT_EXCEEDED	Limit for number of items exceeded.
0x16	CTAP2_ERR_UNSUPPORTED_EXTENSION	Unsupported extension.
0x19	CTAP2_ERR_CREDENTIAL_EXCLUDED	Valid credential found in the exclude list.
0x21	CTAP2_ERR_PROCESSING	Processing (Lengthy operation is in progress).
0x22	CTAP2_ERR_INVALID_CREDENTIAL	Credential not valid for the authenticator.
0x23	CTAP2_ERR_USER_ACTION_PENDING	Authentication is waiting for user interaction.
0x24	CTAP2_ERR_OPERATION_PENDING	Processing, lengthy operation is in progress.
0x25	CTAP2_ERR_NO_OPERATIONS	No request is pending.
0x26	CTAP2_ERR_UNSUPPORTED_ALGORITHM	Authenticator does not support requested algorithm.
0x27	CTAP2_ERR_OPERATION_DENIED	Not authorized for requested operation.
0x28	CTAP2_ERR_KEY_STORE_FULL	Internal key storage is full.
0x29	CTAP2_ERR_NOT_BUSY	Authenticator cannot cancel as it is not busy.
0x2A	CTAP2_ERR_NO_OPERATION_PENDING	No outstanding operations.
0x2B	CTAP2_ERR_UNSUPPORTED_OPTION	Unsupported option.
0x2C	CTAP2_ERR_INVALID_OPTION	Not a valid option for current operation.
0x2D	CTAP2_ERR_KEEPALIVE_CANCEL	Pending keep alive was cancelled.
0x2E	CTAP2_ERR_NO_CREDENTIALS	No valid credentials provided.
0x2F	CTAP2_ERR_USER_ACTION_TIMEOUT	Timeout waiting for user interaction.

0x30	CTAP2_ERR_NOT_ALLOWED	Continuation command, such as, authenticatorGetNextAssertion not allowed.
0x31	CTAP2_ERR_PIN_INVALID	PIN Invalid.
0x32	CTAP2_ERR_PIN_BLOCKED	PIN Blocked.
0x33	CTAP2_ERR_PIN_AUTH_INVALID	PIN authentication, <a href="#">pinAuth</a> , verification failed.
0x34	CTAP2_ERR_PIN_AUTH_BLOCKED	PIN authentication, <a href="#">pinAuth</a> , blocked. Requires power recycle to reset.
0x35	CTAP2_ERR_PIN_NOT_SET	No PIN has been set.
0x36	CTAP2_ERR_PIN_REQUIRED	PIN is required for the selected operation.
0x37	CTAP2_ERR_PIN_POLICY_VIOLATION	PIN policy violation. Currently only enforces minimum length.
0x38	CTAP2_ERR_PIN_TOKEN_EXPIRED	pinToken expired on authenticator.
0x39	CTAP2_ERR_REQUEST_TOO_LARGE	Authenticator cannot handle this request due to memory constraints.
0x3A	CTAP2_ERR_ACTION_TIMEOUT	The current operation has timed out.
0x3B	CTAP2_ERR_UP_REQUIRED	User presence is required for the requested operation.
0x7F	CTAP1_ERR_OTHER	Other unspecified error.
0xDF	CTAP2_ERR_SPEC_LAST	CTAP 2 spec last error.
0xE0	CTAP2_ERR_EXTENSION_FIRST	Extension specific error.
0xEF	CTAP2_ERR_EXTENSION_LAST	Extension specific error.
0xF0	CTAP2_ERR_VENDOR_FIRST	Vendor specific error.
0xFF	CTAP2_ERR_VENDOR_LAST	Vendor specific error.

## 7. Interoperating with CTAP1/U2F authenticators§

This section defines how a platform maps CTAP2 requests to CTAP1/U2F requests and CTAP1/U2F responses to CTAP2 responses in order to support CTAP1/U2F authenticators via CTAP2. CTAP2 requests can be mapped to CTAP1/U2F requests provided the CTAP2 request does not have parameters that only CTAP2 authenticators can fulfill. The processes for RPs to use to verify CTAP1/U2F based authenticatorMakeCredential and authenticatorGetAssertion responses are also defined below. Platform may choose to skip this feature and work only with CTAP devices.

### 7.1. Framing of U2F commands§

The U2F protocol is based on a request-response mechanism, where a requester sends a request message to a U2F device, which always results in a response message being sent back from the U2F device to the requester.

The request message has to be "framed" to send to the lower layer. Taking the signature request as an example, the "framing" is a way for the FIDO client to tell the lower transport layer that it is sending a signature request and then send the raw message contents. The framing also specifies how the transport will carry back the response raw message and any meta-information such as an error code if the command failed.

In this current version of U2F, the framing is defined based on the ISO7816-4:2005 extended APDU format. This is very appropriate for the USB transport since devices are typically built around secure elements which understand this format already. This same argument may apply for futures such as Bluetooth based devices. For other futures based on other transports, such as a built-in u2f token on a mobile device TEE, this framing may not be appropriate, and a different framing may need to be defined.

### 7.1.1. U2F Request Message Framing ### (#u2f-request-message-framing)§

The raw request message is framed as a command APDU:

```
CLA INS P1 P2 LC1 LC2 LC3
```

Where:

**CLA:** Reserved to be used by the underlying transport protocol (if applicable). The host application shall set this byte to zero.

**INS:** U2F command code, defined in the following sections.

**P1, P2:** Parameter 1 and 2, defined by each command.

**LC1-LC3:** Length of the request data, big-endian coded, i.e. LC1 being MSB and LC3 LSB

### 7.1.2. U2F Response Message Framing ### (#u2f-response-message-framing)§

The raw response data is framed as a response APDU:

```
SW1 SW2
```

Where:

**SW1, SW2:** Status word bytes 1 and 2, forming a 16-bit status word, defined below. SW1 is MSB and SW2 LSB.  
Status Codes

The following ISO7816-4 defined status words have a special meaning in U2F:

**SW\_NO\_ERROR:** The command completed successfully without error.

**SW\_CONDITIONS\_NOT\_SATISFIED:** The request was rejected due to test-of-user-presence being required.

**SW\_WRONG\_DATA:** The request was rejected due to an invalid key handle.

Each implementation may define any other vendor-specific status codes, providing additional information about an error condition. Only the error codes listed above will be handled by U2F FIDO clients, whereas others will be seen as general errors and logging of these is optional.

## 7.2. Using the CTAP2 authenticatorMakeCredential Command with CTAP1/U2F authenticators§

Platform follows the following procedure ([Fig: Mapping: WebAuthn authenticatorMakeCredential to and from CTAP1/U2F Registration Messages](#)):

1. Platform tries to get information about the authenticator by sending authenticatorGetInfo command as specified in [CTAP2 protocol overview](#).
  - CTAP1/U2F authenticator returns a command error or improperly formatted CBOR response. For any failure, platform may fall back to CTAP1/U2F protocol.
2. Map CTAP2 authenticatorMakeCredential request to [U2F\\_REGISTER](#) request.

- Platform verifies that CTAP2 request does not have any parameters that CTAP1/U2F authenticators cannot fulfill.
    - All of the below conditions must be true for the platform to proceed to next step. If any of the below conditions is not true, platform errors out with CTAP2\_ERR\_UNSUPPORTED\_OPTION.
      - pubKeyCredParams must use the ES256 algorithm (-7).
      - Options must not include "rk" set to true.
      - Options must not include "uv" set to true.
    - If excludeList is not empty:
      - If the excludeList is not empty, the platform must send signing request with check-only control byte to the CTAP1/U2F authenticator using each of the credential ids (key handles) in the excludeList. If any of them does not result in an error, that means that this is a known device. Afterwards, the platform must still send a dummy registration request (with a dummy appId and invalid challenge) to CTAP1/U2F authenticators that it believes are excluded. This makes it so the user still needs to touch the CTAP1/U2F authenticator before the RP gets told that the token is already registered.
  - Use clientDataHash parameter of CTAP2 request as CTAP1/U2F challenge parameter (32 bytes).
  - Let rpIdHash be a byte array of size 32 initialized with SHA-256 hash of rp. id parameter as CTAP1/U2F application parameter (32 bytes).
3. Send the U2F\_REGISTER request to the authenticator as specified in [\[U2FRawMsgs\]](#) spec.
4. Map the U2F registration response message (see: [FIDO U2F Raw Message Formats v1.0 §registration-response-message-success](#)) to a CTAP2 authenticatorMakeCredential response message:
- Generate authenticatorData from the U2F registration response message ([FIDO U2F Raw Message Formats v1.0 §registration-response-message-success](#)) received from the authenticator:
    - Initialize attestedCredData:
      - Let credentialIdLength be a 2-byte unsigned big-endian integer representing length of the Credential ID initialized with CTAP1/U2F response key handle length.
      - Let credentialId be a credentialIdLength byte array initialized with CTAP1/U2F response key handle bytes.
      - Let x9encodedUserPublicKey be the user public key returned in the U2F registration response message [\[U2FRawMsgs\]](#). Let coseEncodedCredentialPublicKey be the result of converting x9encodedUserPublicKey's value from ANS X9.62 / Sec-1 v2 uncompressed curve point representation [\[SEC1V2\]](#) to COSE\_Key representation ([RFC8152](#) Section 7).
      - Let attestedCredData be a byte array with following structure:
- | Length (in bytes)  | Description                      | Value  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 16                 | The AAGUID of the authenticator. | Initialized with all zeros.                            |
| 2                  | Byte length L of Credential ID   | Initialized with credentialIdLength bytes.             |
| credentialIdLength | Credential ID.                   | Initialized with credentialId bytes.                   |
| 77                 | The credential public key.       | Initialized with coseEncodedCredentialPublicKey bytes. |
- Initialize authenticatorData:

- Let flags be a byte whose zeroth bit (bit 0, UP) is set, and whose sixth bit (bit 6, AT) is set, and all other bits are zero (bit zero is the least significant bit). See also Authenticator Data section of [\[WebAuthN\]](#).
- Let signCount be a 4-byte unsigned integer initialized to zero.
- Let authenticatorData be a byte array with the following structure:

Length (in bytes)	Description	Value
32	SHA-256 hash of the <a href="#">rp.id</a> .	Initialized with rpIdHash bytes.
1	Flags	Initialized with flags' value.
4	Signature counter (signCount).	Initialized with signCount bytes.
Variable Length	<a href="#">Attested credential data</a> .	Initialized with attestedCredData's value.

- Let attestationStatement be a CBOR map (see "attStmtTemplate" in [Generating an Attestation Object \[WebAuthN\]](#)) with the following keys, whose values are as follows:
  - Set "x5c" as an array of the one attestation cert extracted from CTAP1/U2F response.
  - Set "sig" to be the "signature" bytes from the U2F registration response message [\[U2FRawMsgs\]](#).
- Let attestationObject be a CBOR map (see "attObj" in [Attestation object \[WebAuthN\]](#)) with the following keys, whose values are as follows:
  - Set "authData" to authenticatorData.
  - Set "fmt" to "fido-u2f".
  - Set "attStmt" to attestationStatement.

5. Return attestationObject to the caller.

## EXAMPLE 6

Sample CTAP2 authenticatorMakeCredential Request (CBOR):

```
{1: h'687134968222EC17202E42505F8ED2B16AE22F16BB05B88C25DB9E602645F141',
 2: {"id": "example.com",
    "name": "example.com"},
 3: {"id": "1098237235409872",
    "name": "johnsmith@example.com",
    "icon": "https://pics.example.com/00/p/aBjjjqPb.png",
    "displayName": "John P. Smith"},
 4: [{"type": "public-key", "alg": -7},
     {"type": "public-key", "alg": -257}]}
```

CTAP1/U2F Request from above CTAP2 authenticatorMakeCredential request

```
687134968222EC17202E42505F8ED2B16AE22F16BB05B88C25DB9E602645F141 # clientDataHash
1194228DA8FDBDEEFD261BD7B6595CFD70A50D70C6407BCF013DE96D4EFB17DE # rpIdHash
```

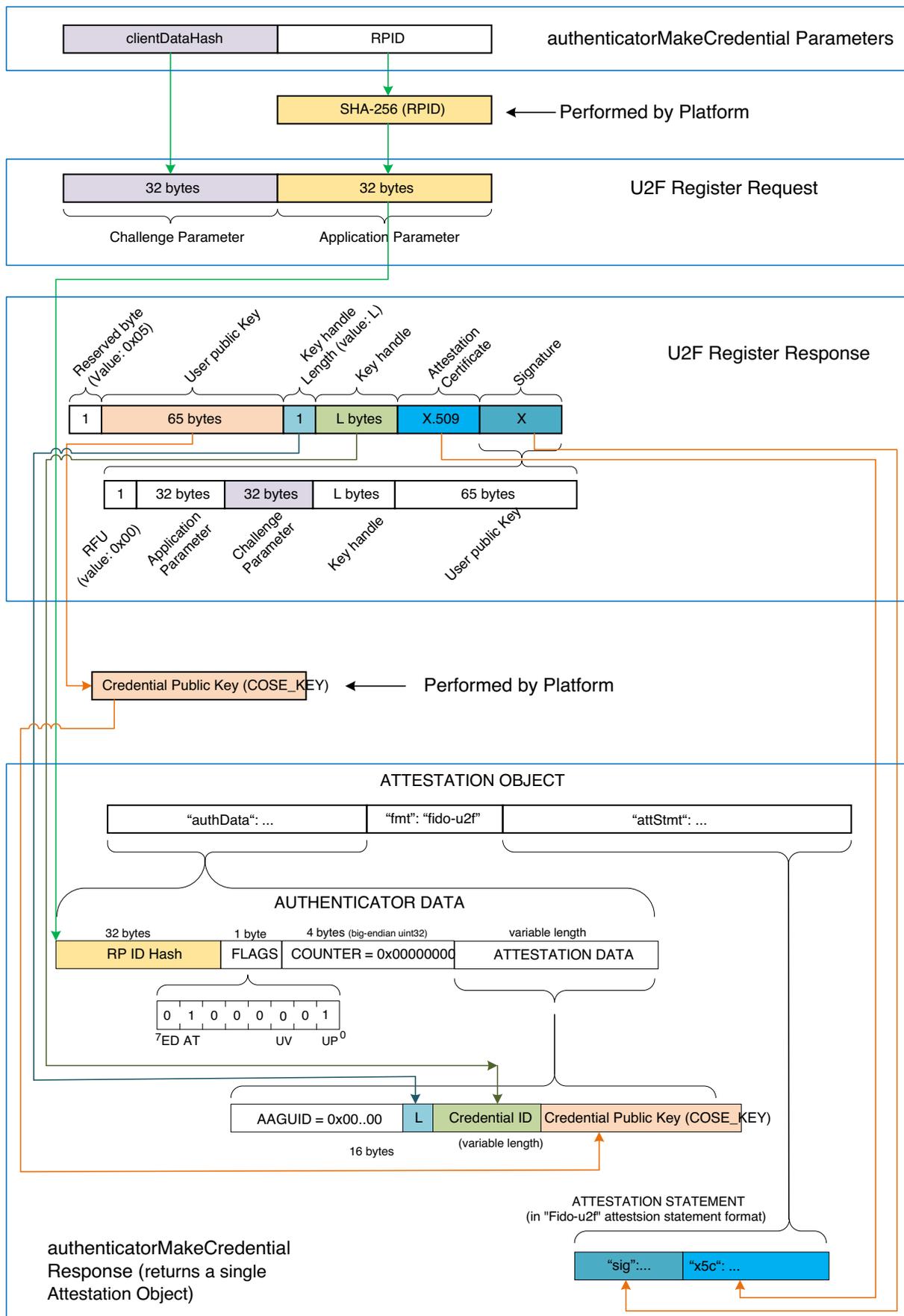
Sample CTAP1/U2F Response from the device

```
05 # Reserved Byte (1 Byte)
)
04E87625896EE4E46DC032766E8087962F36DF9DFE8B567F3763015B1990A60E # User Public Key (65 B)
```



32EC23B9022100E39516AC4D61EE64044D50B415A6A4D4D84BA6D895CB5AB7A1  
AA7D081DE341FA',

"x5c": [h'3082024A30820132A0030201020204046C8822300D06092A864886F70D01010B  
0500302E312C302A0603550403132359756269636F2055324620526F6F742043  
412053657269616C203435373230303633313020170D31343038303130303030  
30305A180F323035303039303430303030305A302C312A302806035504030C  
2159756269636F205532462045452053657269616C2032343931383233323437  
37303059301306072A8648CE3D020106082A8648CE3D030107034200043CCAB9  
2CCB97287EE8E639437E21FCD6B6F165B2D5A3F3DB131D31C16B742BB476D8D1  
E99080EB546C9BBD556E6210FD42785899E78CC589EBE310F6CDB9FF4A33B30  
39302206092B0601040182C40A020415312E332E362E312E342E312E34313438  
322E312E323013060B2B0601040182E51C020101040403020430300D06092A86  
4886F70D01010B050003820101009F9B052248BC4CF42CC5991FCAABAC9B651B  
BE5BDCDC8EF0AD2C1C1FFB36D18715D42E78B249224F92C7E6E7A05C49F0E7E4  
C881BF2E94F45E4A21833D7456851D0F6C145A29540C874F3092C934B43D222B  
8962C0F410CEF1DB75892AF116B44A96F5D35ADEA3822FC7146F6004385BCB69  
B65C99E7EB6919786703C0D8CD41E8F75CCA44AA8AB725AD8E799FF3A8696A6F  
1B2656E631B1E40183C08FDA53FA4A8F85A05693944AE179A1339D002D15CABD  
810090EC722EF5DEF9965A371D415D624B68A2707CAD97BCDD1785AF97E258F3  
3DF56A031AA0356D8E8D5EBCADC74E071636C6B110ACE5CC9B90DFEACAE640FF  
1BB0F1FE5DB4EFF7A95F060733F5 ' ]}]}



**Figure 2** Mapping: WebAuthn authenticatorMakeCredential to and from CTAP1/U2F Registration Messages.

### 7.3. Using the CTAP2 authenticatorGetAssertion Command with CTAP1/U2F authenticators

Platform follows the following procedure (Fig: Mapping: WebAuthn authenticatorGetAssertion to and from CTAP1/U2F Authentication Messages):

1. Platform tries to get information about the authenticator by sending authenticatorGetInfo command as

specified in [CTAP2 protocol overview](#).

- CTAP1/U2F authenticator returns a command error or improperly formatted CBOR response. For any failure, platform may fall back to CTAP1/U2F protocol.
2. Map CTAP2 authenticatorGetAssertion request to [U2F\\_AUTHENTICATE](#) request:
- Platform verifies that CTAP2 request does not have any parameters that CTAP1/U2F authenticators cannot fulfill:
    - All of the below conditions must be true for the platform to proceed to next step. If any of the below conditions is not true, platform errors out with CTAP2\_ERR\_UNSUPPORTED\_OPTION.
      - Options must not include "uv" set to true.
      - allowList must have at least one credential.
    - If allowList has more than one credential, platform has to loop over the list and send individual different U2F\_AUTHENTICATE commands to the authenticator. For each credential in credential list, map CTAP2 authenticatorGetAssertion request to [U2F\\_AUTHENTICATE](#) as below:

- Let controlByte be a byte initialized as follows:
  - For USB, set it to 0x07 (check-only). This should prevent call getting blocked on waiting for user input. If response returns success, then call again setting the enforce-user-presence-and-sign.
  - For NFC, set it to 0x03 (enforce-user-presence-and-sign). The tap has already provided the presence and won't block.
- Use clientDataHash parameter of CTAP2 request as CTAP1/U2F challenge parameter (32 bytes).
- Let rpIdHash be a byte array of size 32 initialized with SHA-256 hash of rp.id parameter as CTAP1/U2F application parameter (32 bytes).
- Let credentialId be the byte array initialized with the id for this PublicKeyCredentialDescriptor.
- Let keyHandleLength be a byte initialized with length of credentialId byte array.
- Let u2fAuthenticateRequest be a byte array with the following structure:

Length (in bytes)	Description	Value
32	Challenge parameter	Initialized with clientDataHash parameter bytes.
32	Application parameter	Initialized with rpIdHash bytes.
1	Key handle length	Initialized with keyHandleLength's value.
keyHandleLength	Key handle	Initialized with credentialId bytes.

and let Control Byte be P1 of the framing.

3. Send u2fAuthenticateRequest to the authenticator.
4. Map the U2F authentication response message (see the "Authentication Response Message: Success" section of [\[U2FRawMsgs\]](#)) to a CTAP2 authenticatorGetAssertion response message:
- Generate authenticatorData from the [U2F authentication response message](#) received from the authenticator:
    - Let flags be a byte whose zeroth bit (bit 0, UP) is set to 1 if CTAP1/U2F response user presence byte is set to 1, and all other bits are zero (bit zero is the least significant bit). See also

Authenticator Data section of [\[WebAuthN\]](#).

- Let `signCount` be a 4-byte unsigned integer initialized with CTAP1/U2F response counter field.
- Let `authenticatorData` is a byte array of following structure:

<b>Length (in bytes)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Value</b>
32	SHA-256 hash of the <a href="#">rp.id</a> .	Initialized with <code>rpIdHash</code> bytes.
1	Flags	Initialized with <code>flags</code> ' value.
4	Signature counter ( <code>signCount</code> )	Initialized with <code>signCount</code> bytes.

- Let `authenticatorGetAssertionResponse` be a CBOR map with the following keys whose values are as follows:
  - Set `0x01` with the credential from `allowList` that whose response succeeded.
  - Set `0x02` with `authenticatorData` bytes.
  - Set `0x03` with signature field from CTAP1/U2F authentication response message.

## EXAMPLE 7

Sample CTAP2 authenticatorGetAssertion Request (CBOR):

```
{1: "example.com",
 2: h'687134968222EC17202E42505F8ED2B16AE22F16BB05B88C25DB9E602645F141',
 3: [{"type": "public-key",
      "id": h'3EBD89BF77EC509755EE9C2635EFAAAC7B2B9C5CEF1736C3717DA48534C8C6B6
        54D7FF945F50B5CC4E78055BDD396B64F78DA2C5F96200CCD415CD08FE420038'}]},
 5: {"up": true}}
```

CTAP1/U2F Request from above CTAP2 authenticatorGetAssertion request

```
687134968222EC17202E42505F8ED2B16AE22F16BB05B88C25DB9E602645F141 # clientDataHash
1194228DA8FDBDEEFD261BD7B6595CFD70A50D70C6407BCF013DE96D4EFB17DE # rpIdHash
40 # Key Handle Length (1
yte)
3EBD89BF77EC509755EE9C2635EFAAAC7B2B9C5CEF1736C3717DA48534C8C6B6 # Key Handle (Key Handl
Length Bytes)
54D7FF945F50B5CC4E78055BDD396B64F78DA2C5F96200CCD415CD08FE420038 # ...
```

Sample CTAP1/U2F Response from the device

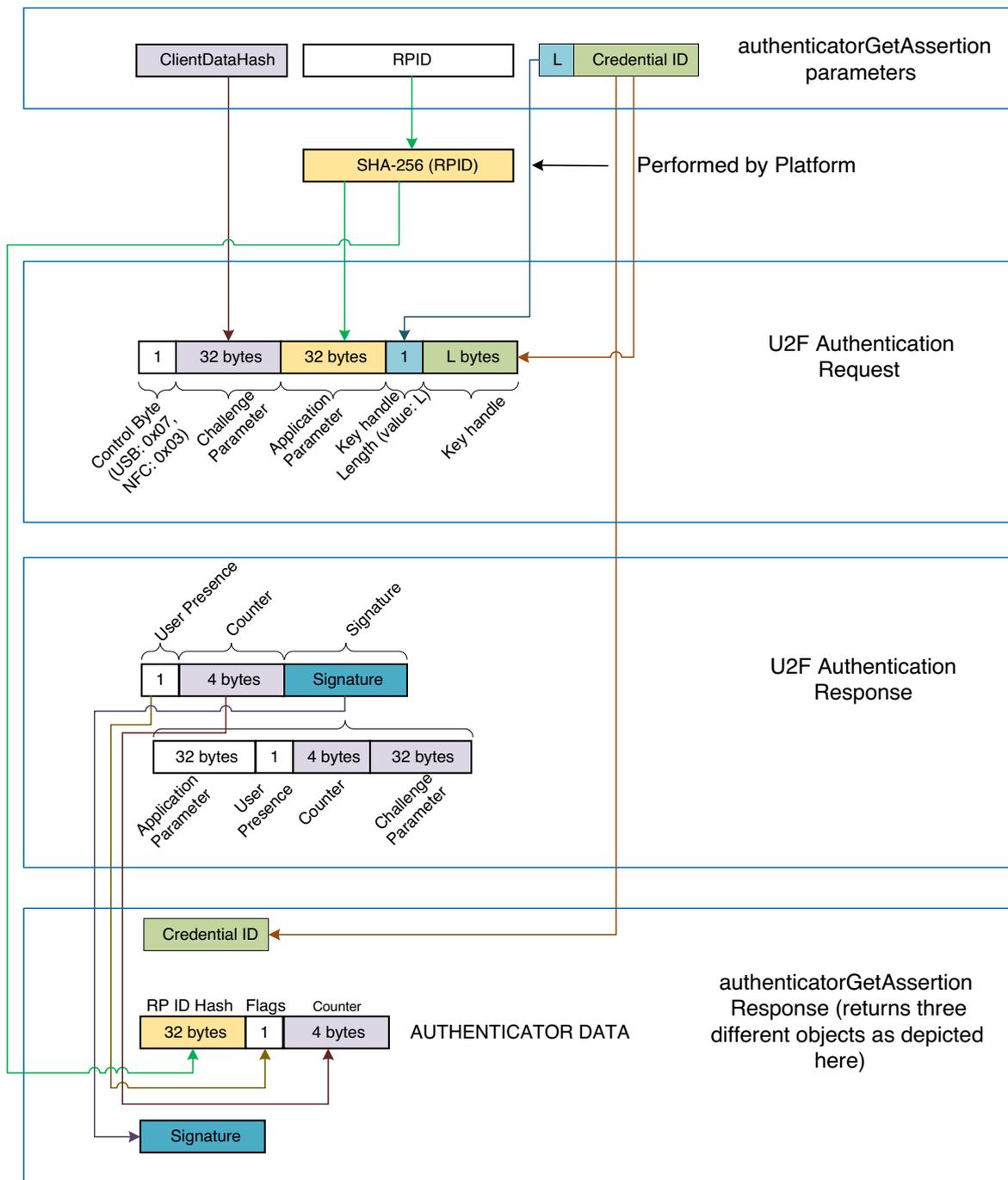
```
01 # User Presence (1 Byte
)
0000003B # Sign Count (4 Bytes
)
304402207BDE0A52AC1F4C8B27E003A370CD66A4C7118DD22D5447835F45B99C # Signature (variable L
ngth)
68423FF702203C517B47877F85782DE10086A783D1E7DF4E3639E771F5F6AFA3 # ...
5AAD5373858E # ...
```

Authenticator Data from CTAP1/U2F Response

```
1194228DA8FDBDEEFD261BD7B6595CFD70A50D70C6407BCF013DE96D4EFB17DE # rpIdHash
01 # User Presence (1 Byte
)
0000003B # Sign Count (4 Bytes
)
```

Mapped CTAP2 authenticatorGetAssertion response(CBOR)

```
{1: {"type": "public-key",
      "id": h'3EBD89BF77EC509755EE9C2635EFAAAC7B2B9C5CEF1736C3717DA48534C8C6B6
        54D7FF945F50B5CC4E78055BDD396B64F78DA2C5F96200CCD415CD08FE420038'},
 2: h'1194228DA8FDBDEEFD261BD7B6595CFD70A50D70C6407BCF013DE96D4EFB17DE
    010000003B',
 3: h'304402207BDE0A52AC1F4C8B27E003A370CD66A4C7118DD22D5447835F45B99C
    68423FF702203C517B47877F85782DE10086A783D1E7DF4E3639E771F5F6AFA3
    5AAD5373858E'}}
```



**Figure 3** Mapping: WebAuthn `authenticatorGetAssertion` to and from CTAP1/U2F Authentication Messages.

## 8. Transport-specific Bindings§

### 8.1. USB Human Interface Device (USB HID)§

#### 8.1.1. Design rationale§

CTAP messages are framed for USB transport using the HID (Human Interface Device) protocol. We henceforth refer to the protocol as CTAPHID. The CTAPHID protocol is designed with the following design objectives in mind

- Driver-less installation on all major host platforms
- Multi-application support with concurrent application access without the need for serialization and centralized dispatching.
- Fixed latency response and low protocol overhead
- Scalable method for CTAPHID device discovery



Offset	Length	Mnemonic	Description
0	4	CID	Channel identifier
4	1	CMD	Command identifier (bit 7 always set)
5	1	BCNTH	High part of payload length
6	1	BCNTL	Low part of payload length
7	(s - 7)	DATA	Payload data (s is equal to the fixed packet size)

The command byte has always the highest bit set to distinguish it from a continuation packet, which is described below.

A continuation packet is defined as

Offset	Length	Mnemonic	Description
0	4	CID	Channel identifier
4	1	SEQ	Packet sequence 0x00..0x7f (bit 7 always cleared)
5	(s - 5)	DATA	Payload data (s is equal to the fixed packet size)

With this approach, a message with a payload less or equal to (s - 7) may be sent as one packet. A larger message is then divided into one or more continuation packets, starting with sequence number 0, which then increments by one to a maximum of 127.

With a packet size of 64 bytes (max for full-speed devices), this means that the maximum message payload length is  $64 - 7 + 128 * (64 - 5) = 7609$  bytes.

### 8.1.5. Arbitration§

In order to handle multiple channels and clients concurrency, the CTAPHID protocol has to maintain certain internal states, block conflicting requests and maintain protocol integrity. The protocol relies on each client application (channel) behaves politely, i.e. does not actively act to destroy for other channels. With this said, a malign or malfunctioning application can cause issues for other channels. Expected errors and potentially stalling applications should however, be handled properly.

#### 8.1.5.1. Transaction atomicity, idle and busy states.§

A transaction always consists of three stages:

1. A message is sent from the host to the device
2. The device processes the message
3. A response is sent back from the device to the host

The protocol is built on the assumption that a plurality of concurrent applications may try ad-hoc to perform transactions at any time, with each transaction being atomic, i.e. it cannot be interrupted by another application once started.

The application channel that manages to get through the first initialization packet when the device is in idle state will keep the device locked for other channels until the last packet of the response message has been received. The device then returns to idle state, ready to perform another transaction for the same or a different channel. Between two transactions, no state is maintained in the device and a host application must assume that any other process may execute other transactions at any time.

If an application tries to access the device from a different channel while the device is busy with a transaction, that request will immediately fail with a busy-error message sent to the requesting channel.

#### *8.1.5.2. Transaction timeout§*

A transaction has to be completed within a specified period of time to prevent a stalling application to cause the device to be completely locked out for access by other applications. If for example an application sends an initialization packet that signals that continuation packets will follow and that application crashes, the device will back out that pending channel request and return to an idle state.

#### *8.1.5.3. Transaction abort and re-synchronization§*

If an application for any reason "gets lost", gets an unexpected response or error, it may at any time issue an abort-and-resynchronize command. If the device detects an INIT command during a transaction that has the same channel id as the active transaction, the transaction is aborted (if possible) and all buffered data flushed (if any). The device then returns to idle state to become ready for a new transaction.

#### *8.1.5.4. Packet sequencing§*

The device keeps track of packets arriving in correct and ascending order and that no expected packets are missing. The device will continue to assemble a message until all parts of it has been received or that the transaction times out. Spurious continuation packets appearing without a prior initialization packet will be ignored.

### **8.1.6. Channel locking§**

In order to deal with aggregated transactions that may not be interrupted, such as tunneling of vendor-specific commands, a channel lock command may be implemented. By sending a channel lock command, the device prevents other channels from communicating with the device until the channel lock has timed out or been explicitly unlocked by the application.

This feature is optional and has not to be considered by general CTAP HID applications.

### **8.1.7. Protocol version and compatibility§**

The CTAPHID protocol is designed to be extensible yet maintain backwards compatibility, to the extent it is applicable. This means that a CTAPHID host SHALL support any version of a device with the command set available in that particular version.

### **8.1.8. HID device implementation§**

This description assumes knowledge of the USB and HID specifications and is intended to provide the basics for implementing a CTAPHID device. There are several ways to implement USB devices and reviewing these different methods is beyond the scope of this document. This specification targets the interface part, where a device is regarded as either a single or multiple interface (composite) device.

The description further assumes (but is not limited to) a full-speed USB device (12 Mbit/s). Although not excluded per se, USB low-speed devices are not practical to use given the 8-byte report size limitation together with the protocol overhead.

### 8.1.8.1. Interface and endpoint descriptors

The device implements two endpoints (except the control endpoint 0), one for IN and one for OUT transfers. The packet size is vendor defined, but the reference implementation assumes a full-speed device with two 64-byte endpoints.

#### Interface Descriptor

Mnemonic	Value	Description
bNumEndpoints	2	One IN and one OUT endpoint
bInterfaceClass	0x03	HID
bInterfaceSubClass	0x00	No interface subclass
bInterfaceProtocol	0x00	No interface protocol

#### Endpoint 1 descriptor

Mnemonic	Value	Description
bmAttributes	0x03	Interrupt transfer
bEndpointAdresss	0x01	1, OUT
bMaxPacketSize	64	64-byte packet max
bInterval	5	Poll every 5 millisecond

#### Endpoint 2 descriptor

Mnemonic	Value	Description
bmAttributes	0x03	Interrupt transfer
bEndpointAdresss	0x81	1, IN
bMaxPacketSize	64	64-byte packet max
bInterval	5	Poll every 5 millisecond

The actual endpoint order, intervals, endpoint numbers and endpoint packet size may be defined freely by the vendor and the host application is responsible for querying these values and handle these accordingly. For the sake of clarity, the values listed above are used in the following examples.

### 8.1.8.2. HID report descriptor and device discovery

A HID report descriptor is required for all HID devices, even though the reports and their interpretation (scope, range, etc.) makes very little sense from an operating system perspective. The CTAPHID just provides two "raw" reports, which basically map directly to the IN and OUT endpoints. However, the HID report descriptor has an important purpose in CTAPHID, as it is used for device discovery.

For the sake of clarity, a bit of high-level C-style abstraction is provided

#### EXAMPLE 8

```
// HID report descriptor

const uint8_t HID_ReportDescriptor[] = {
    HID_UsagePage ( FIDO_USAGE_PAGE ),
    HID_Usage ( FIDO_USAGE_CTAPHID ),
    HID_Collection ( HID_Application ),
    HID_Usage ( FIDO_USAGE_DATA_IN ),
    HID_LogicalMin ( 0 ),
    HID_LogicalMaxS ( 0xff ),
    HID_ReportSize ( 8 ),
    HID_ReportCount ( HID_INPUT_REPORT_BYTES ),
    HID_Input ( HID_Data | HID_Absolute | HID_Variable ),
    HID_Usage ( FIDO_USAGE_DATA_OUT ),
    HID_LogicalMin ( 0 ),
    HID_LogicalMaxS ( 0xff ),
    HID_ReportSize ( 8 ),
    HID_ReportCount ( HID_OUTPUT_REPORT_BYTES ),
    HID_Output ( HID_Data | HID_Absolute | HID_Variable ),
    HID_EndCollection
};
```

A unique **Usage Page** is defined (0xF1D0) for the FIDO alliance and under this realm, a **CTAPHIDUsage** is defined as well (0x01). During CTAPHID device discovery, all HID devices present in the system are examined and devices that match this usage pages and usage are then considered to be CTAPHID devices.

The length values specified by the `HID_INPUT_REPORT_BYTES` and the `HID_OUTPUT_REPORT_BYTES` should typically match the respective endpoint sizes defined in the endpoint descriptors.

### 8.1.9. CTAPHID commands§

The CTAPHID protocol implements the following commands.

#### 8.1.9.1. Mandatory commands§

The following list describes the minimum set of commands required by a CTAPHID device. Optional and vendor-specific commands may be implemented as described in respective sections of this document.

##### 8.1.9.1.1. CTAPHID\_MSG (0x03)§

This command sends an encapsulated CTAP1/U2F message to the device. The semantics of the data message is defined in the U2F Raw Message Format encoding specification. Please note that keep-alive messages MAY be sent from the device to the client before the response message is returned.

#### Request

CMD	CTAPHID_MSG
BCNT	1..(n + 1)
DATA	U2F command byte
DATA + 1	n bytes of data

#### Response at success

CMD	CTAPHID_MSG
BCNT	1..(n + 1)
DATA	U2F status code
DATA + 1	n bytes of data

#### 8.1.9.1.2. CTAPHID\_CBOR (0x10)§

This command sends an encapsulated CTAP CBOR encoded message. The semantics of the data message is defined in the CTAP Message encoding specification.

##### Request

CMD	CTAPHID_CBOR
BCNT	1..(n + 1)
DATA	CTAP command byte
DATA + 1	n bytes of CBOR encoded data

##### Response at success

CMD	CTAPHID_MSG
BCNT	1..(n + 1)
DATA	CTAP status code
DATA + 1	n bytes of CBOR encoded data

#### 8.1.9.1.3. CTAPHID\_INIT (0x06)§

This command has two functions.

If sent on an allocated CID, it synchronizes a channel, discarding the current transaction, buffers and state as quickly as possible. It will then be ready for a new transaction. The device then responds with the CID of the channel it received the INIT on, using that channel.

If sent on the broadcast CID, it requests the device to allocate a unique 32-bit channel identifier (CID) that can be used by the requesting application during its lifetime. The requesting application generates a nonce that is used to match the response. When the response is received, the application compares the sent nonce with the received one. After a positive match, the application stores the received channel id and uses that for subsequent transactions.

To allocate a new channel, the requesting application SHALL use the broadcast channel CTAPHID\_BROADCAST\_CID (0xFFFFFFFF). The device then responds with the newly allocated channel in the response, using the broadcast channel.

##### Request

CMD	CTAPHID_INIT
BCNT	8

DATA	8-byte nonce
------	--------------

**Response at success**

CMD	CTAPHID_INIT
BCNT	17 (see note below)
DATA	8-byte nonce
DATA+8	4-byte channel ID
DATA+12	CTAPHID protocol version identifier
DATA+13	Major device version number
DATA+14	Minor device version number
DATA+15	Build device version number
DATA+16	Capabilities flags

The protocol version identifies the protocol version implemented by the device. This version of the CTAPHID protocol is 2.

A CTAPHID host SHALL accept a response size that is longer than the anticipated size to allow for future extensions of the protocol, yet maintaining backwards compatibility. Future versions will maintain the response structure of the current version, but additional fields may be added.

The meaning and interpretation of the device version number is vendor defined.

The capability flags value is a bitfield where the following bits values are defined. Unused values are reserved for future use and must be set to zero by device vendors.

Name	Value	Description
CAPABILITY_WINK	0x01	If set to 1, authenticator implements CTAPHID_WINK function
CAPABILITY_CBOR	0x04	If set to 1, authenticator implements CTAPHID_CBOR function
CAPABILITY_NMSG	0x08	If set to 1, authenticator DOES NOT implement CTAPHID_MSG function

8.1.9.1.4. CTAPHID\_PING (0x01)§

Sends a transaction to the device, which immediately echoes the same data back. This command is defined to be a uniform function for debugging, latency and performance measurements.

**Request**

CMD	CTAPHID_PING
BCNT	0..n
DATA	n bytes

**Response at success**

CMD	CTAPHID_PING
BCNT	n
DATA	N bytes

#### 8.1.9.1.5. CTAPHID\_CANCEL (0x11)§

Cancel any outstanding requests on this CID.

##### Request

CMD	CTAPHID_CANCEL
BCNT	0

##### Response at success

CMD	CTAPHID_CANCEL
BCNT	0

#### 8.1.9.1.6. CTAPHID\_ERROR (0x3F)§

This command code is used in response messages only.

CMD	CTAPHID_ERROR
BCNT	1
DATA	Error code

The following error codes are defined

ERR_INVALID_CMD	0x01	The command in the request is invalid
ERR_INVALID_PAR	0x02	The parameter(s) in the request is invalid
ERR_INVALID_LEN	0x03	The length field (BCNT) is invalid for the request
ERR_INVALID_SEQ	0x04	The sequence does not match expected value
ERR_MSG_TIMEOUT	0x05	The message has timed out
ERR_CHANNEL_BUSY	0x06	The device is busy for the requesting channel
ERR_LOCK_REQUIRED	0x0A	Command requires channel lock
NA	0x0B	Reserved (Removed)
ERR_OTHER	0x7F	Unspecified error

Note: These values are identical to the BLE transport values.

#### 8.1.9.1.7. CTAPHID\_KEEPLIVE (0x3B)§

This command code is sent while processing a CTAPHID\_MSG. It should be sent at least every 100ms and whenever the status changes.

CMD	CTAPHID_KEEPLIVE
BCNT	1
DATA	Status code

The following status codes are defined

STATUS_PROCESSING	1	The authenticator is still processing the current request.
STATUS_UPNEEDED	2	The authenticator is waiting for user presence.

### 8.1.9.2. Optional commands§

The following commands are defined by this specification but are optional and does not have to be implemented.

#### 8.1.9.2.1. CTAPHID\_WINK (0x08)§

The wink command performs a vendor-defined action that provides some visual or audible identification a particular authenticator. A typical implementation will do a short burst of flashes with a LED or something similar. This is useful when more than one device is attached to a computer and there is confusion which device is paired with which connection.

#### Request

CMD	CTAPHID_WINK
BCNT	0
DATA	N/A

#### Response at success

CMD	CTAPHID_WINK
BCNT	0
DATA	N/A

#### 8.1.9.2.2. CTAPHID\_LOCK (0x04)§

The lock command places an exclusive lock for one channel to communicate with the device. As long as the lock is active, any other channel trying to send a message will fail. In order to prevent a stalling or crashing application to lock the device indefinitely, a lock time up to 10 seconds may be set. An application requiring a longer lock has to send repeating lock commands to maintain the lock.

#### Request

CMD	CTAPHID_LOCK
BCNT	1

DATA	Lock time in seconds 0..10. A value of 0 immediately releases the lock
------	--

### Response at success

CMD	CTAPHID_LOCK
BCNT	0
DATA	N/A

#### 8.1.9.3. Vendor specific commands§

A CTAPHID may implement additional vendor specific commands that are not defined in this specification, while being CTAPHID compliant. Such commands, if implemented, must use a command in the range between CTAPHID\_VENDOR\_FIRST (0x40) and CTAPHID\_VENDOR\_LAST (0x7F).

## 8.2. ISO7816, ISO14443 and Near Field Communication (NFC)§

### 8.2.1. Conformance§

Please refer to [\[ISO7816-4\]](#) for APDU definition.

### 8.2.2. Protocols§

The general protocol between a FIDO2 client and an authenticator over ISO7816/ISO14443 is as follows:

- Client sends an applet selection command
- Authenticator replies with success if the applet is present
- Client sends a command for an operation
- Authenticator replies with response data or error

Because of timeouts that may otherwise occur on some platforms, it is RECOMMENDED that the Authenticators reply to NFC commands within 800 milliseconds.

### 8.2.3. Applet selections§

A successful Select allows the client to know that the applet is present and active. A client SHALL send a Select to the authenticator before any other command.

The FIDO2 AID consists of the following fields:

Field	Value
RID	0xA000000647
AC	0x2f
AX	0x0001

The command to select the FIDO applet is:

CLA	INS	P1	P2	Lc	Data In	Le
-----	-----	----	----	----	---------	----

0x00	0xA4	0x04	0x00	0x08	AID	TBD (version string length)
------	------	------	------	------	-----	-----------------------------

In response to the applet selection command, the FIDO authenticator replies with its version information string in the successful response.

Given legacy support for CTAP1/U2F, the client must determine the capabilities of the device at the selection stage.

- If the authenticator implements CTAP1/U2F, the version information SHALL be the string U2F\_V2 to maintain backwards-compatibility with CTAP1/U2F-only clients.
- If the authenticator ONLY implements CTAP2, the device SHALL respond with data that is NOT U2F\_V2.
- If the authenticator implements both CTAP1/U2F and CTAP2, the version information SHALL be the string U2F\_V2 to maintain backwards-compatibility with CTAP1/U2F-only clients. CTAP2-aware clients may then issue a CTAP authenticatorGetInfo command to determine if the device supports CTAP2 or not.

### 8.2.4. Framing§

Conceptually, framing defines an encapsulation of FIDO2 commands. In NFC, this encapsulation is done in an APDU following [\[ISO7816-4\]](#). Fragmentation, if needed, is discussed in the following paragraph.

#### 8.2.4.1. Commands§

Commands SHALL have the following format:

CLA	INS	P1	P2	Data In	Le
0x80	0x10	0x00	0x00	CTAP Command Byte    CBOR Encoded Data	Variable

#### 8.2.4.2. Response§

Response SHALL have the following format in case of success:

Case	Data	Status word
Success	CTAP Status code    Response data	"9000" - Success
Status update	Status data	"9100" - OK When receiving this, the ISO transport layer will immediately issue an NFCCTAP_GETREPONSE command unless a cancel was issued. The ISO transport layer will provide the status data to the higher layers.
Errors		See <a href="#">[ISO7816-4]</a>

### 8.2.5. Fragmentation§

APDU command may hold up to 255 or 65535 bytes of data using short or extended length encoding respectively. APDU response may hold up to 256 or 65536 bytes of data using short or extended length encoding respectively.

Some requests may not fit into a short APDU command, or the expected response may not fit in a short APDU response. For this reason, FIDO2 client MAY encode APDU command in the following way:

- The request may be encoded using *extended length* APDU encoding.
- The request may be encoded using *short* APDU encoding. If the request does not fit a short APDU command, the client MUST use ISO 7816-4 APDU chaining.

Short APDU Chaining commands SHALL have the following format:

CLA	INS	P1	P2	Data In
0x90	0x10	0x00	0x00	CTAP Payload

### EXAMPLE 9

Sample authenticatorMakeCredential request using short APDU encoding and chaining mode:

```
01A8015820687134968222EC17202E42505F8ED2B16AE22F16BB05B88C25DB9E
602645F14102A262696469746573742E63746170646E616D6569746573742E63
74617003A362696458202B6689BB18F4169F069FBCDF50CB6EA3C60A861B9A7B
63946983E0B577B78C70646E616D6571746573746374617040637461702E636F
6D6B646973706C61794E616D65695465737420437461700483A263616C672664
747970656A7075626C69632D6B6579A263616C6739010064747970656A707562
6C69632D6B6579A263616C67382464747970656A7075626C69632D6B657906A1
6B686D61632D736563726574F507A162726BF50850FC43AAA411D948CC6C3706
8B8DA1D5080901
```

would be sent to authenticator by platform in two short APDU commands:

- APDU command 1:

Platform Request:

90 10 00 00

F0

```
01A8015820687134968222EC17202E42505F8ED2B16AE22F16BB05B88C25DB9E
602645F14102A262696469746573742E63746170646E616D6569746573742E63
74617003A362696458202B6689BB18F4169F069FBCDF50CB6EA3C60A861B9A7B
63946983E0B577B78C70646E616D6571746573746374617040637461702E636F
6D6B646973706C61794E616D65695465737420437461700483A263616C672664
747970656A7075626C69632D6B6579A263616C6739010064747970656A707562
6C69632D6B6579A263616C67382464747970656A7075626C69632D6B657906A1
6B686D61632D736563726574F507A162
```

Authenticator Response:

9000

- APDU command 2:

Platform Request:

80 10 00 00

17

726BF50850FC43AAA411D948CC6C37068B8DA1D5080901

00

Authenticator Response:

00

```
A301667061636B6564025900A20021F5FC0B85CD22E0623BCD7D1CA48948909
249B4776EB515154E57B66AE12C500000055F8A011F38C0A4D15800617111F9E
DC7D0010F4D57B23DD0CB785680CDA7F7E44F60A5010203262001215820DF01
7D0B286795BEA153D166A0A15B4F6B67A3AF4A101E10E8496F3DD3C5D1A92258
2094R22551F6325D7733C41RR2F5A6A2ANFF417C97F0906197B5R0C8R8D6C6R
```

```
20742291E929B775041B213A072A0E47C97E99017B5B0000000000
A7A16B686D61632D736563726574F503A363616C672663736967584730450220
7CCAC57A1E43DF24B0847EEBF119D28DCDC5048F7DCD8EDD79E79721C41BCF2D
022100D89EC75B92CE8FF9E46FE7F8C87995694A63E5B78AB85C47B9DA
6100
```

- APDU command 3:

```
Platform Request:
80 C0 00 00 00
```

```
Authenticator Response:
1C580A8EC83A63783563815901973082019330820138A003020102020900859B
726CB24B4C29300A06082A8648CE3D0403023047310B30090603550406130255
5331143012060355040A0C0B59756269636F205465737431223020060355040B
0C1941757468656E74696361746F72204174746573746174696F6E301E170D31
36313230343131353530305A170D3236313230323131353530305A3047310B30
0906035504061302555331143012060355040A0C0B59756269636F2054657374
31223020060355040B0C1941757468656E74696361746F722041747465737461
74696F6E3059301306072A8648CE3D020106082A8648CE3D030107034200
61A7
```

- APDU command 4:

```
Platform Request:
80 C0 00 00 A7
```

```
Authenticator Response:
04AD11EB0E8852E53AD5DFED86B41E6134A18EC4E1AF8F221A3C7D6E636C80EA
13C3D504FF2E76211BB44525B196C44CB4849979CF6F896ECD2BB860DE1BF437
6BA30D300B30090603551D1304023000300A06082A8648CE3D04030203490030
46022100E9A39F1B03197525F7373E10CE77E78021731B94D0C03F3FDA1FD22D
B3D030E7022100C4FAEC3445A820CF43129CDB00AABEFD9AE2D874F9C5D343CB
2F113DA23723F3
9000
```

Some responses may not fit into a short APDU response. For this reason, FIDO2 authenticators MUST respond in the following way:

- If the request was encoded using *extended length* APDU encoding, the authenticator MUST respond using the extended length APDU response format.
- If the request was encoded using *short* APDU encoding, the authenticator MUST respond using ISO 7816-4 APDU chaining.

### 8.2.6. Commands

#### 8.2.6.1. NFCCTAP\_MSG (0x10)

The NFCCTAP\_MSG command send a CTAP message to the authenticator. This command SHALL return as soon as processing is done. If the operation was not completed, it MAY return a 0x9100 result to trigger NFCCTAP\_GETRESPONSE functionality if the client indicated support by setting the relevant bit in P1.

The values for P1 for the NFCCTAP\_MSG command are:

P1 Bits	Meaning
0x80	The client supports NFCCTAP_GETRESPONSE

Values for P2 are all RFU and MUST be set to 0.

#### 8.2.6.2. NFCCTAP\_GETRESPONSE (0x11)§

The NFCCTAP\_GETRESPONSE command is issued up to receiving 0x9100 unless a cancel was issued. This command SHALL return a 0x9100 result with a status indication if it has a status update, the reply to the request with a 0x9000 result code to indicate success or an error value.

All values for P1 and P2 are RFU and MUST be set to 0x00.

### 8.3. Bluetooth Smart / Bluetooth Low Energy Technology§

#### 8.3.1. Conformance§

Authenticator and client devices using Bluetooth Low Energy Technology SHALL conform to Bluetooth Core Specification 4.0 or later [\[BTCORE\]](#). Bluetooth SIG specified UUID values SHALL be found on the Assigned Numbers website [\[BTASSNUM\]](#).

#### 8.3.2. Pairing§

Bluetooth Low Energy Technology is a long-range wireless protocol and thus has several implications for privacy, security, and overall user-experience. Because it is wireless, Bluetooth Low Energy Technology may be subject to monitoring, injection, and other network-level attacks.

For these reasons, clients and authenticators MUST create and use a long-term link key (LTK) and SHALL encrypt all communications. Authenticator MUST never use short term keys.

Because Bluetooth Low Energy Technology has poor ranging (*i.e.*, there is no good indication of proximity), it may not be clear to a FIDO client with which Bluetooth Low Energy Technology authenticator it should communicate. Pairing is the only mechanism defined in this protocol to ensure that FIDO clients are interacting with the expected Bluetooth Low Energy Technology authenticator. As a result, authenticator manufacturers SHOULD instruct users to avoid performing Bluetooth pairing in a public space such as a cafe, shop or train station.

One disadvantage of using standard Bluetooth pairing is that the pairing is "system-wide" on most operating systems. That is, if an authenticator is paired to a FIDO client which resides on an operating system where Bluetooth pairing is "system-wide", then any application on that device might be able to interact with an authenticator. This issue is discussed further in Implementation Considerations.

#### 8.3.3. Link Security§

For Bluetooth Low Energy Technology connections, the authenticator SHALL enforce Security Mode 1, Level 2 (unauthenticated pairing with encryption) or Security Mode 1, Level 3 (authenticated pairing with encryption) before any FIDO messages are exchanged.

#### 8.3.4. Framing§

Conceptually, framing defines an encapsulation of FIDO raw messages responsible for correct transmission of a single request and its response by the transport layer.

All requests and their responses are conceptually written as a single frame. The format of the requests and responses is given first as complete frames. Fragmentation is discussed next for each type of transport layer.

#### 8.3.4.1. Request from Client to Authenticator

Request frames must have the following format

Offset	Length	Mnemonic	Description
0	1	CMD	Command identifier
1	1	HLEN	High part of data length
2	1	LLEN	Low part of data length
3	s	DATA	Data (s is equal to the length)

Supported commands are PING, MSG and CANCEL. The constant values for them are described below.

The CANCEL command cancels any outstanding MSG commands.

The data format for the MSG command is defined in [§6 Message Encoding](#).

#### 8.3.4.2. Response from Authenticator to Client

Response frames must have the following format, which share a similar format to the request frames:

Offset	Length	Mnemonic	Description
0	1	STAT	Response status
1	1	HLEN	High part of data length
2	1	LLEN	Low part of data length
3	s	DATA	Data (s is equal to the length)

When the status byte in the response is the same as the command byte in the request, the response is a successful response. The value ERROR indicates an error, and the response data contains an error code as a variable-length, big-endian integer. The constant value for ERROR is described below.

Note that the errors sent in this response are errors at the encapsulation layer, e.g., indicating an incorrectly formatted request, or possibly an error communicating with the authenticator's FIDO message processing layer. Errors reported by the FIDO message processing layer itself are considered a success from the encapsulation layer's point of view and are reported as a complete MSG response.

Data format is defined in [§6 Message Encoding](#).

#### 8.3.4.3. Command, Status, and Error constants

The COMMAND constants and values are:

Constant	Value
PING	0x81

KEEPALIVE	0x82
MSG	0x83
CANCEL	0xbe
ERROR	0xbf

The KEEPALIVE command contains a single byte with the following possible values:

Status Constant	Value
PROCESSING	0x01
UP_NEEDED	0x02
RFU	0x00, 0x03-0xFF

The ERROR constants and values are:

Error Constant	Value	Meaning
ERR_INVALID_CMD	0x01	The command in the request is unknown/invalid
ERR_INVALID_PAR	0x02	The parameter(s) of the command is/are invalid or missing
ERR_INVALID_LEN	0x03	The length of the request is invalid
ERR_INVALID_SEQ	0x04	The sequence number is invalid
ERR_REQ_TIMEOUT	0x05	The request timed out
NA	0x06	Value reserved (HID)
NA	0x0a	Value reserved (HID)
NA	0x0b	Value reserved (HID)
ERR_OTHER	0x7f	Other, unspecified error

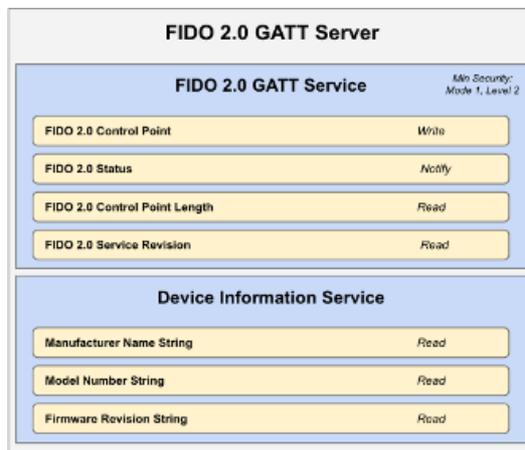
Note: These values are identical to the HID transport values.

### 8.3.5. GATT Service Description

This profile defines two roles: FIDO Authenticator and FIDO Client.

- The FIDO Client SHALL be a GATT Client.
- The FIDO Authenticator SHALL be a GATT Server.

The [following figure](#) illustrates the mandatory services and characteristics that SHALL be offered by a FIDO Authenticator as part of its GATT server:



**Figure 4** Mandatory GATT services and characteristics that **MUST** be offered by a FIDO Authenticator. Note that the Generic Access Profile Service ([BTGAS](#)) is not present as it is already mandatory for any Bluetooth Low Energy Technology compliant device.

The table below summarizes additional GATT sub-procedure requirements for a FIDO Authenticator (GATT Server) beyond those required by all GATT Servers.

GATT Sub-Procedure	Requirements
Write Characteristic Value	Mandatory
Notifications	Mandatory
Read Characteristic Descriptors	Mandatory
Write Characteristic Descriptors	Mandatory

The table below summarizes additional GATT sub-procedure requirements for a FIDO Client (GATT Client) beyond those required by all GATT Clients.

GATT Sub-Procedure	Requirements
Discover All Primary Services	(*)
Discover Primary Services by Service UUID	(*)
Discover All Characteristics of a Service	(**)
Discover Characteristics by UUID	(**)
Discover All Characteristic Descriptors	Mandatory
Read Characteristic Value	Mandatory
Write Characteristic Value	Mandatory
Notification	Mandatory
Read Characteristic Descriptors	Mandatory
Write Characteristic Descriptors	Mandatory

(\*): Mandatory to support at least one of these sub-procedures. (\*\*): Mandatory to support at least one of these sub-procedures. Other GATT sub-procedures may be used if supported by both client and server.

Specifics of each service are explained below. In the following descriptions: all values are big-endian coded, all strings are in UTF-8 encoding, and any characteristics not mentioned explicitly are optional.

### 8.3.5.1. FIDO Service

An authenticator SHALL implement the FIDO Service described below. The UUID for the FIDO GATT service is 0xFFFD; it SHALL be declared as a Primary Service. The service contains the following characteristics:

Characteristic Name	Mnemonic	Property	Length	UUID
FIDO Control Point	fidControlPoint	Write	Defined by Vendor (20-512 bytes)	F1D0FFF1-DEAA-ECEE-B42F-C9BA7ED623BB
FIDO Status	fidStatus	Notify	N/A	F1D0FFF2-DEAA-ECEE-B42F-C9BA7ED623BB
FIDO Control Point Length	fidControlPointLength	Read	2 bytes	F1D0FFF3-DEAA-ECEE-B42F-C9BA7ED623BB
FIDO Service Revision Bitfield	fidServiceRevisionBitfield	Read/Write	Defined by Vendor (1+ bytes)	F1D0FFF4-DEAA-ECEE-B42F-C9BA7ED623BB
FIDO Service Revision	fidServiceRevision	Read	Defined by Vendor (20-512 bytes)	0x2A28

fidControlPoint is a write-only command buffer.

fidStatus is a notify-only response attribute. The authenticator will send a series of notifications on this attribute with a maximum length of (ATT\_MTU-3) using the response frames defined above. This mechanism is used because this results in a faster transfer speed compared to a notify-read combination.

fidControlPointLength defines the maximum size in bytes of a single write request to fidControlPoint. This value SHALL be between 20 and 512.

fidServiceRevision is a deprecated field that is only relevant to U2F 1.0 support. It defines the revision of the U2F Service. The value is a UTF-8 string. For version 1.0 of the specification, the value fidServiceRevision SHALL be 1.0 or in raw bytes: 0x312e30. This field SHALL be omitted if protocol version 1.0 is not supported.

The fidServiceRevision Characteristic MAY include a Characteristic Presentation Format descriptor with format value 0x19, UTF-8 String.

fidServiceRevisionBitfield defines the revision of the FIDO Service. The value is a bit field which each bit representing a version. For each version bit the value is 1 if the version is supported, 0 if it is not. The length of the bitfield is 1 or more bytes. All bytes that are 0 are omitted if all the following bytes are 0 too. The byte order is big endian. The client SHALL write a value to this characteristic with exactly 1 bit set before sending any FIDO commands unless u2fServiceRevision is present and U2F 1.0 compatibility is desired. If only U2F version 1.0 is supported, this characteristic SHALL be omitted.

Byte (left to right)	Bit	Version

0	7	U2F 1.1
0	6	U2F 1.2
0	5	FIDO2
0	4-0	Reserved

For example, a device that only supports FIDO2 Rev 1 will only have a `fidofServiceRevisionBitfield` characteristic of length 1 with value 0x20.

#### 8.3.5.2. Device Information Service§

An authenticator SHALL implement the Device Information Service [\[BTDIS\]](#) with the following characteristics:

- Manufacturer Name String
- Model Number String
- Firmware Revision String

All values for the Device Information Service are left to the vendors. However, vendors should not create uniquely identifiable values so that authenticators do not become a method of tracking users.

#### 8.3.5.3. Generic Access Profile Service§

Every authenticator SHALL implement the Generic Access Profile Service [\[BTGAS\]](#) with the following characteristics:

- Device Name
- Appearance

### 8.3.6. Protocol Overview§

The general overview of the communication protocol follows:

1. Authenticator advertises the FIDO Service.
2. Client scans for authenticator advertising the FIDO Service.
3. Client performs characteristic discovery on the authenticator.
4. If not already paired, the client and authenticator SHALL perform BLE pairing and create a LTK. Authenticator SHALL only allow connections from previously bonded clients without user intervention.
5. Client checks if the `fidofServiceRevisionBitfield` characteristic is present. If so, the client selects a supported version by writing a value with a single bit set.
6. Client reads the `fidofControlPointLength` characteristic.
7. Client registers for notifications on the `fidofStatus` characteristic.
8. Client writes a request (e.g., an enroll request) into the `fidofControlPoint` characteristic.
9. Optionally, the client writes a CANCEL command to the `fidofControlPoint` characteristic to cancel the pending request.
10. Authenticator evaluates the request and responds by sending notifications over `fidofStatus` characteristic.
11. The protocol completes when either:
  - The client unregisters for notifications on the `fidofStatus` characteristic, or:

- The connection times out and is closed by the authenticator.

### 8.3.7. Authenticator Advertising Format§

When advertising, the authenticator SHALL advertise the FIDO service UUID.

When advertising, the authenticator MAY include the TxPower value in the advertisement (see [BTXPLAD](#)).

When advertising in pairing mode, the authenticator SHALL either: (1) set the LE Limited Mode bit to zero and the LE General Discoverable bit to one OR (2) set the LE Limited Mode bit to one and the LE General Discoverable bit to zero. When advertising in non-pairing mode, the authenticator SHALL set both the LE Limited Mode bit and the LE General Discoverable Mode bit to zero in the Advertising Data Flags.

The advertisement MAY also carry a device name which is distinctive and user-identifiable. For example, "ACME Key" would be an appropriate name, while "XJS4" would not be.

The authenticator SHALL also implement the Generic Access Profile [BTGAP](#) and Device Information Service [BTDIS](#), both of which also provide a user-friendly name for the device that could be used by the client.

It is not specified when or how often an authenticator should advertise, instead that flexibility is left to manufacturers.

### 8.3.8. Requests§

Clients SHOULD make requests by connecting to the authenticator and performing a write into the `fidoControlPoint` characteristic.

Upon receiving a CANCEL request, the authenticator SHALL cancel any outstanding request. The authenticator SHALL send a single reply with status CANCEL and data length 0, regardless of whether a request was outstanding. It will not send a reply for the cancelled request. The authenticator MAY power down after a CANCEL. If the cancelled request required User Presence or User Verification, these states MUST be invalidated by the CANCEL request.

### 8.3.9. Responses§

Authenticators SHOULD respond to clients by sending notifications on the `fidoStatus` characteristic.

Some authenticators might alert users or prompt them to complete the test of user presence (e.g., via sound, light, vibration) Upon receiving any request, the authenticators SHALL send KEEPALIVE commands every `kKeepAliveMillis` milliseconds until completing processing the commands. While the authenticator is processing the request the KEEPALIVE command will contain status PROCESSING. If the authenticator is waiting to complete the Test of User Presence, the KEEPALIVE command will contain status UP\_NEEDED. While waiting to complete the Test of User Presence, the authenticator MAY alert the user (e.g., by flashing) in order to prompt the user to complete the test of user presence. As soon the authenticator has completed processing and confirmed user presence, it SHALL stop sending KEEPALIVE commands, and send the reply.

Upon receiving a KEEPALIVE command, the client SHALL assume the authenticator is still processing the command; the client SHALL not resend the command. The authenticator SHALL continue sending KEEPALIVE messages at least every `kKeepAliveMillis` to indicate that it is still handling the request. Until a client-defined timeout occurs, the client SHALL NOT move on to other devices when it receives a KEEPALIVE with UP\_NEEDED status, as it knows this is a device that can satisfy its request.

### 8.3.10. Framing fragmentation§

A single request/response sent over Bluetooth Low Energy Technology MAY be split over multiple writes and

notifications, due to the inherent limitations of Bluetooth Low Energy Technology which is not currently meant for large messages. Frames are fragmented in the following way:

A frame is divided into an *initialization fragment* and one or more *continuation fragments*.

An initialization fragment is defined as:

Offset	Length	Mnemonic	Description
0	1	CMD	Command identifier
1	1	HLEN	High part of data length
2	1	LLEN	Low part of data length
3	0 to (maxLen - 3)	DATA	Data

where maxLen is the maximum packet size supported by the characteristic or notification.

In other words, the start of an initialization fragment is indicated by setting the high bit in the first byte. The subsequent two bytes indicate the total length of the frame, in big-endian order. The first maxLen - 3 bytes of data follow.

Continuation fragments are defined as:

Offset	Length	Mnemonic	Description
0	1	SEQ	Packet sequence 0x00..0x7f (high bit always cleared)
1	0 to (maxLen - 1)	DATA	Data

where maxLen is the maximum packet size supported by the characteristic or notification.

In other words, continuation fragments begin with a sequence number, beginning at 0, implicitly with the high bit cleared. The sequence number must wraparound to 0 after reaching the maximum sequence number of 0x7f.

Example for sending a PING command with 40 bytes of data with a maxLen of 20 bytes:

Frame	Bytes
0	[810028] [17 bytes of data]
1	[00] [19 bytes of data]
2	[01] [4 bytes of data]

Example for sending a ping command with 400 bytes of data with a maxLen of 512 bytes:

Frame	Bytes
0	[810190] [400 bytes of data]

### 8.3.11. Notifications§

A client needs to register for notifications before it can receive them. Bluetooth Core Specification 4.0 or later [\[BT CORE\]](#) forces a device to remember the notification registration status over different connections [\[BTCCC\]](#). Unless a client explicitly unregisters for notifications, the registration will be automatically restored when reconnecting. A client MAY therefore check the notification status upon connection and only register if notifications aren't already registered. Please note that some clients MAY disable notifications from a power management

point of view (see below) and the notification registration is remembered per bond, not per client. A client **MUST NOT** remember the notification status in its own data storage.

### 8.3.12. Implementation Considerations§

#### 8.3.12.1. Bluetooth pairing: Client considerations§

As noted in §8.3.2 Pairing, a disadvantage of using standard Bluetooth pairing is that the pairing is "system-wide" on most operating systems. That is, if an authenticator is paired to a FIDO client that resides on an operating system where Bluetooth pairing is "system-wide", then any application on that device might be able to interact with an authenticator. This poses both security and privacy risks to users.

While client operating system security is partly out of FIDO's scope, further revisions of this specification **MAY** propose mitigations for this issue.

#### 8.3.12.2. Bluetooth pairing: Authenticator considerations§

The method to put the authenticator into Pairing Mode should be such that it is not easy for the user to do accidentally **especially** if the pairing method is Just Works. For example, the action could be pressing a physically recessed button or pressing multiple buttons. A visible or audible cue that the authenticator is in Pairing Mode should be considered. As a counter example, a silent, long press of a single non-recessed button is not advised as some users naturally hold buttons down during regular operation.

Note that at times, authenticators may legitimately receive communication from an unpaired device. For example, a user attempts to use an authenticator for the first time with a new client; he turns it on, but forgets to put the authenticator into pairing mode. In this situation, after connecting to the authenticator, the client will notify the user that he needs to pair his authenticator. The authenticator should make it easy for the user to do so, e.g., by not requiring the user to wait for a timeout before being able to enable pairing mode.

Some client platforms (most notably iOS) do not expose the AD Flag LE Limited and General Discoverable Mode bits to applications. For this reason, authenticators are also strongly recommended to include the Service Data field [\[BTSD\]](#) in the Scan Response. The Service Data field is 3 or more octets long. This allows the Flags field to be extended while using the minimum number of octets within the data packet. All octets that are 0x00 are not transmitted as long as all other octets after that octet are also 0x00 and it is not the first octet after the service UUID. The first 2 bytes contain the FIDO Service UUID, the following bytes are flag bytes.

To help clients show the correct UX, authenticators can use the Service Data field to specify whether or not authenticators will require a Passkey (PIN) during pairing.

Service Data Bit	Meaning (if set)
7	Device is in pairing mode.
6	Device requires Passkey Entry <a href="#">[BTPESTK]</a> .

### 8.3.13. Handling command completion§

It is important for low-power devices to be able to conserve power by shutting down or switching to a lower-power state when they have satisfied a client's requests. However, the FIDO protocol makes this hard as it typically includes more than one command/response. This is especially true if a user has more than one key handle associated with an account or identity, multiple key handles may need to be tried before getting a successful outcome. Furthermore, clients that fail to send follow up commands in a timely fashion may cause the authenticator to drain its battery by staying powered up anticipating more commands.

A further consideration is to ensure that a user is not confused about which command she is confirming by

completing the test of user presence. That is, if a user performs the test of user presence, that action should perform exactly one operation.

We combine these considerations into the following series of recommendations:

- Upon initial connection to an authenticator, and upon receipt of a response from an authenticator, if a client has more commands to issue, the client **MUST** transmit the next command or fragment within `kMaxCommandTransmitDelayMillis` milliseconds.
- Upon final response from an authenticator, if the client decides it has no more commands to send it should indicate this by disabling notifications on the `fidoStatus` characteristic. When the notifications are disabled the authenticator may enter a low power state or disconnect and shut down.
- Any time the client wishes to send a FIDO message, it must have first enabled notifications on the `fidoStatus` characteristic and wait for the ATT acknowledgement to be sure the authenticator is ready to process messages.
- Upon successful completion of a command which required a test of user presence, e.g. upon a successful authentication or registration command, the authenticator can assume the client is satisfied, and **MAY** reset its state or power down.
- Upon sending a command response that did not consume a test of user presence, the authenticator **MUST** assume that the client may wish to initiate another command and leave the connection open until the client closes it or until a timeout of at least `kErrorWaitMillis` elapses. Examples of command responses that do not consume user presence include failed authenticate or register commands, as well as get version responses, whether successful or not. After `kErrorWaitMillis` milliseconds have elapsed without further commands from a client, an authenticator **MAY** reset its state or power down.

Constant	Value
<code>kMaxCommandTransmitDelayMillis</code>	1500 milliseconds
<code>kErrorWaitMillis</code>	2000 milliseconds
<code>kKeepAliveMillis</code>	500 milliseconds

#### 8.3.14. Data throughputs

Bluetooth Low Energy Technology does not have particularly high throughput, this can cause noticeable latency to the user if request/responses are large. Some ways that implementers can reduce latency are:

- Support the maximum MTU size allowable by hardware (up to the 512-byte max from the Bluetooth specifications).
- Make the attestation certificate as small as possible; do not include unnecessary extensions.

#### 8.3.15. Advertising

Though the standard does not appear to mandate it (in any way that we've found thus far), advertising and device discovery seems to work better when the authenticators advertise on all 3 advertising channels and not just one.

#### 8.3.16. Authenticator Address Type

In order to enhance the user's privacy and specifically to guard against tracking, it is recommended that authenticators use Resolvable Private Addresses (RPAs) instead of static addresses.

## 9. Defined Extensions§

This section defines an authenticator extension and corresponding WebAuthn extension.

### 9.1. HMAC Secret Extension (hmac-secret)§

#### Extension identifier

hmac-secret

This extension is used by the platform to retrieve a symmetric secret from the authenticator when it needs to encrypt or decrypt data using that symmetric secret. This symmetric secret is scoped to a credential. The authenticator and the platform each only have the part of the complete secret to prevent offline attacks. This extension can be used to maintain different secrets on different machines.

#### Client extension input

[create\(\)](#) : A boolean value to indicate that this extension is requested by the Relying Party.

```
partial dictionary AuthenticationExtensionsClientInputs {
  bool hmacCreateSecret;
};
```

[get\(\)](#) : A JavaScript object defined as follows:

```
dictionary HMACGetSecretInput {
  required ArrayBuffer salt1; // 32-byte random data
  ArrayBuffer salt2; // Optional additional 32-byte random data
};

partial dictionary AuthenticationExtensionsClientInputs {
  HMACGetSecretInput hmacGetSecret;
};
```

The salt2 input is optional. It can be used when the platform wants to roll over the symmetric secret in one operation.

#### Client extension processing

1. If present in [create\(\)](#):
  1. If set to true, pass a CBOR true value as the authenticator extension input.
  2. If set to false, do not process this extension.
2. If present in [aget\(\)](#):
  1. Verify that salt1 is a 32-byte ArrayBuffer.
  2. If salt2 is present, verify that it is a 32-byte ArrayBuffer.
  3. Pass salt1 and, if present, salt2 as the authenticator extension input.

#### Client extension output

[create\(\)](#) : Boolean true value indicating that the authenticator has processed the extension.

```
partial dictionary AuthenticationExtensionsClientOutputs {
  bool hmacCreateSecret;
};
```

[get\(\)](#) : A dictionary with the following data:

```

dictionary HMACGetSecretOutput {
  required ArrayBuffer output1;
  ArrayBuffer output2;
};

partial dictionary AuthenticationExtensionsClientOutputs {
  HMACGetSecretOutput hmacGetSecret;
};

```

### Authenticator extension input

Same as the client extension input, except represented in CBOR.

### Authenticator extension processing

- **authenticatorGetInfo additional behaviors**

The authenticator indicates to the platform that it supports the "hmac-secret" extension via the "extensions" parameter in the [authenticatorGetInfo](#) response.

#### EXAMPLE 10

Sample CTAP2 authenticatorGetInfo response (CBOR):

```

{
  1: ["FIDO_2_0"],
  2: ["hmac-secret"],
  ...
}

```

- **authenticatorMakeCredential additional behaviors**

The platform sends the [authenticatorMakeCredential](#) request with the following CBOR map entry in the "extensions" field to the authenticator:

- "hmac-secret": true

#### EXAMPLE 11

Sample CTAP2 authenticatorMakeCredential Request (CBOR):

```

{
  1: h'687134968222EC17202E42505F8ED2B16AE22F16BB05B88C25DB9E602645F141',
  ...
  6: {"hmac-secret": true},
  7: {"rk": true}
}

```

- The authenticator generates a random 32-byte value (called CredRandom) and associates it with the credential.
- The authenticator responds with the following CBOR map entry in the "extensions" fields to the authenticator:
  - "hmac-secret": true

#### EXAMPLE 12

Sample "extensions" field value in the authenticatorData:

```

{"hmac-secret": true}

```

- **authenticatorGetAssertion additional behaviors**

- The platform [gets sharedSecret](#) from the authenticator.
- The platform sends the [authenticatorGetAssertion](#) request with the following CBOR map entry in the "extensions" field to the authenticator:
  - "hmac-secret":
    - keyAgreement(0x01): public key of [platformKeyAgreementKey](#), "bG".
    - saltEnc(0x02): Encrypt one or two salts (Called salt1 (32 bytes) and salt2 (32 bytes)) using [sharedSecret](#) as follows:
      - One salt case: AES256-CBC(sharedSecret, IV=0, salt1 (32 bytes)).
      - Two salt case: AES256-CBC(sharedSecret, IV=0, salt1 (32 bytes) || salt2 (32 bytes)).
    - saltAuth(0x03): LEFT(HMAC-SHA-256(sharedSecret, saltEnc), 16).
      - The platform sends the first 16 bytes of the HMAC-SHA-256 result.

### EXAMPLE 13

Sample "extensions" field value in the authenticatorData:

```
4: {
  "hmac-secret":
  {
    1:
    {
      1: 2,
      3: -25,
      -1: 1,
      -2: h'0DE6479775C5B704BF780073809DE1B36A29132E187709C1E364F299F8847769',
      -3: h'3BBE9BEDCC1AC8328BA6397A5F46AF85FC7C51B35BEDFD9E3E47AC6F34248B35',
    },
    2: h'59E195FC58C614C07C99F587495F374871E9873AD37D5BCA1EED200926C3C6BA528D7748AF9592BD7E7A88051887F214E13CFDF406C3A1C57D529BABF987D4A',
    3: h'17B93F3BDB95380ED512EC6F542CE140'
  }
}
```

- The authenticator performs the following operations when processing this extension:
  - The authenticator waits for user consent.
  - The authenticator generates "sharedSecret": SHA-256((abG).x) using the [private key of authenticatorKeyAgreementKey](#), "a" and the [public key of platformKeyAgreementKey](#), "bG".
    - SHA-256 is done over only the "x" curve point of "abG".
    - See [\[RFC6090\]](#) Section 4.1 and Appendix (C.2) of [\[SP800-56A\]](#) for more ECDH key agreement protocol details and key representation information.
  - The authenticator verifies saltEnc by generating LEFT(HMAC-SHA-256(sharedSecret, saltEnc), 16) and matching against the input saltAuth parameter.
  - The authenticator generates one or two HMAC-SHA-256 values, depending upon whether it received one salt (32 bytes) or two salts (64 bytes):
    - output1: HMAC-SHA-256(CredRandom, salt1)

- output2: HMAC-SHA-256(CredRandom, salt2)
- The authenticator returns output1 and, when there were two salts, output2 encrypted to the platform using [sharedSecret](#) as part of "extensions" parameter:
  - One salt case: "hmac-secret": AES256-CBC(sharedSecret, IV=0, output1 (32 bytes))
  - Two salt case: "hmac-secret": AES256-CBC(sharedSecret, IV=0, output1 (32 bytes) || output2 (32 bytes))

#### EXAMPLE 14

Sample "extensions" field value in the authenticatorData:

```
4: { "hmac-secret": h'1F91526CAE456E4CBB71C4DDE7BB877157E6E54DFED3015D7D4DBB2269AFCDE6A1B8D267EBBF848EB95A68E79C7AC705E351D543DB0165887D6290FD47A40C4' }
```

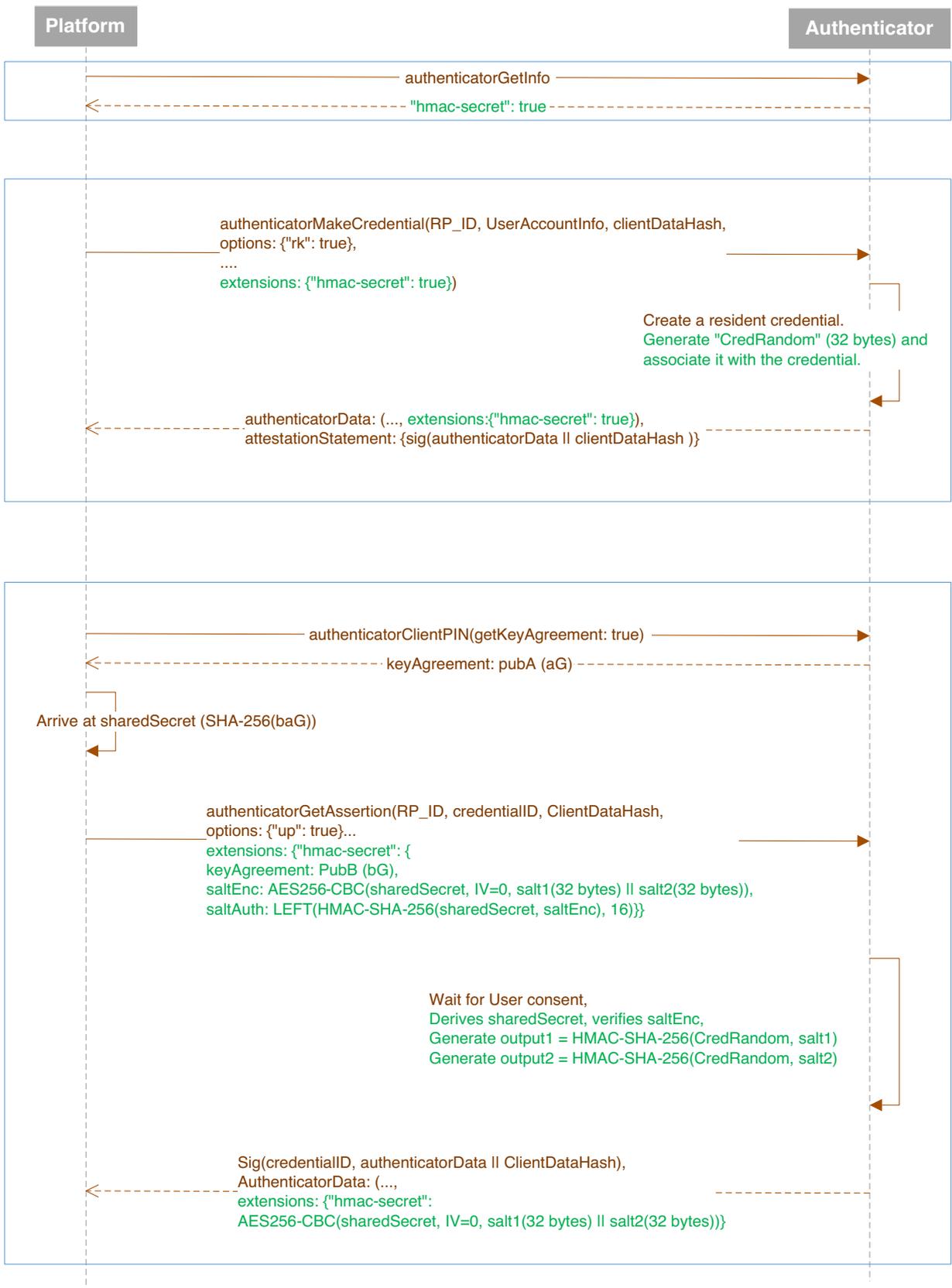


Figure 5 hmac-secret

### Authenticator extension output

Same as the client extension output, except represented in CBOR.

## 10. IANA Considerations§

### 10.1. WebAuthn Extension Identifier Registrations§

This section registers the extension identifier values defined in Section [§9 Defined Extensions](#) in the IANA "WebAuthn Extension Identifier" registry.

- WebAuthn Extension Identifier: hmac-secret
- Description: This registration extension and authentication extension enables the platform to retrieve a symmetric secret scoped to the credential from the authenticator.
- Specification Document: Section [§9.1 HMAC Secret Extension \(hmac-secret\)](#) of this specification

## 11. Security Considerations§

See FIDO Security Reference document [\[FIDOSecRef\]](#).

## Index§

### Terms defined by this specification§

[CTAP2 canonical CBOR encoding form](#)

hmacCreateSecret

[dict-member for AuthenticationExtensionsClientInputs](#)

[dict-member for AuthenticationExtensionsClientOutputs](#)

hmacGetSecret

[dict-member for AuthenticationExtensionsClientInputs](#)

[dict-member for AuthenticationExtensionsClientOutputs](#)

[HMACGetSecretInput](#)

[HMACGetSecretOutput](#)

[output1](#)

[output2](#)

[salt1](#)

[salt2](#)

### Terms defined by reference§

[credential-management-1] defines the following terms:

[create\(\)](#)

[get\(\)](#)

[WebAuthN] defines the following terms:

[AuthenticationExtensionsClientInputs](#)

[AuthenticationExtensionsClientOutputs](#)

[WebIDL] defines the following terms:

[ArrayBuffer](#)

## References§

### Normative References§

[BTASSNUM]

Bluetooth Assigned Numbers. URL: <https://www.bluetooth.org/en-us/specification/assigned-numbers>

[BTCCC]

Client Characteristic Configuration. Bluetooth Core Specification 4.0, Volume 3, Part G, Section 3.3.3.3  
URL: <https://www.bluetooth.com/specifications/adopted-specifications>

**[BTCORE]**

Bluetooth Core Specification 4.0. URL: <https://www.bluetooth.com/specifications/adopted-specifications>

**[BTDIS]**

Device Information Service v1.1. URL: <https://www.bluetooth.com/specifications/adopted-specifications>

**[BTGAP]**

Generic Access Profile. Bluetooth Core Specification 4.0, Volume 3, Part C, Section 12 URL:  
<https://www.bluetooth.com/specifications/adopted-specifications>

**[BTGAS]**

Generic Access Profile service. Bluetooth Core Specification 4.0, Volume 3, Part C, Section 12 URL:  
[https://developer.bluetooth.org/gatt/services/Pages/ServiceViewer.aspx?  
u=org.bluetooth.service.generic\\_access.xml](https://developer.bluetooth.org/gatt/services/Pages/ServiceViewer.aspx?u=org.bluetooth.service.generic_access.xml)

**[BTPESTK]**

Passkey Entry. Bluetooth Core Specification 4.0, Volume 3, Part H, Section 2.3.5.3 URL:  
<https://www.bluetooth.com/specifications/adopted-specifications>

**[BTSD]**

Bluetooth Service Data AD Type. Bluetooth Core Specification 4.0, Volume 3, Part C, Section 11 URL:  
<https://www.bluetooth.com/specifications/adopted-specifications>

**[BTXPLAD]**

Bluetooth TX Power AD Type. Bluetooth Core Specification 4.0, Volume 3, Part C, Section 11 URL:  
<https://www.bluetooth.com/specifications/adopted-specifications>

**[CREDENTIAL-MANAGEMENT-1]**

Mike West. Credential Management Level 1. 4 August 2017. WD. URL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/credential-management-1/>

**[FIDOSecRef]**

R. Lindemann; D. Baghdasaryan; B. Hill. FIDO Security Reference. Implementation Draft. URL:  
<https://fidoalliance.org/specs/fido-v2.0-id-20180227/fido-security-ref-v2.0-id-20180227.html>

**[FIDOServerGuidelines]**

FIDO2 Server Guidelines. URL: <https://drafts.fidoalliance.org/fido-2/latest/fido-server-v2.0-wd-20180202.html>

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Jim Schaad; et al. IANA CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE) Algorithms Registry. URL:  
<https://www.iana.org/assignments/cose/cose.xhtml#algorithms>

**[ISO7816-4]**

ISO 7816-4: Identification cards - Integrated circuit cards; Part 4: Organization, security and commands for interchange. 2013-04. URL: <https://www.iso.org/standard/54550.html>

**[RFC6090]**

D. McGrew; K. Igoe; M. Salter. Fundamental Elliptic Curve Cryptography Algorithms. February 2011. Informational. URL: <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6090>

**[RFC7049]**

C. Bormann; P. Hoffman. Concise Binary Object Representation (CBOR). October 2013. Proposed Standard. URL: <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7049>

**[RFC8152]**

J. Schaad. CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE). July 2017. Proposed Standard. URL:  
<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc8152>

**[SEC1V2]**

SEC1: Elliptic Curve Cryptography, Version 2.0 May 2009. URL: <http://secg.org/download/aid-780/sec1-v2.pdf>

**[SP800-56A]**

Elaine Barker; et al. Recommendation for Pair-Wise Key Establishment Schemes Using Discrete Logarithm Cryptography. May 2013. URL: <http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-56Ar2.pdf>

**[U2FBle]**

D. Balfanz. [FIDO Bluetooth® Specification](https://fidoalliance.org/specs/fido-u2f-v1.2-ps-20170411/fido-u2f-bt-protocol-v1.2-ps-20170411.html). Proposed Standard. URL: <https://fidoalliance.org/specs/fido-u2f-v1.2-ps-20170411/fido-u2f-bt-protocol-v1.2-ps-20170411.html>

#### [U2FNfc]

D. Balfanz. [FIDO NFC Protocol Specification](https://fidoalliance.org/specs/fido-u2f-v1.2-ps-20170411/fido-u2f-nfc-protocol-v1.2-ps-20170411.html). Proposed Standard. URL: <https://fidoalliance.org/specs/fido-u2f-v1.2-ps-20170411/fido-u2f-nfc-protocol-v1.2-ps-20170411.html>

#### [U2FRawMsgs]

D. Balfanz. [FIDO U2F Raw Message Formats v1.0](https://fidoalliance.org/specs/fido-u2f-v1.2-ps-20170411/fido-u2f-raw-message-formats-v1.2-ps-20170411.html). Proposed Standard. URL: <https://fidoalliance.org/specs/fido-u2f-v1.2-ps-20170411/fido-u2f-raw-message-formats-v1.2-ps-20170411.html>

#### [U2FUsbHid]

D. Balfanz. [FIDO U2F HID Protocol Specification](https://fidoalliance.org/specs/fido-u2f-v1.2-ps-20170411/fido-u2f-hid-protocol-v1.2-ps-20170411.html). Proposed Standard. URL: <https://fidoalliance.org/specs/fido-u2f-v1.2-ps-20170411/fido-u2f-hid-protocol-v1.2-ps-20170411.html>

#### [WebAuthN]

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## Informative References§

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S. Bradner. [Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels](https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2119). March 1997. Best Current Practice. URL: <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2119>

## IDL Index§

```
partial dictionary AuthenticationExtensionsClientInputs {
    bool hmacCreateSecret;
};

dictionary HMACGetSecretInput {
    required ArrayBuffer salt1; // 32-byte random data
    ArrayBuffer salt2; // Optional additional 32-byte random data
};

partial dictionary AuthenticationExtensionsClientInputs {
    HMACGetSecretInput hmacGetSecret;
};

partial dictionary AuthenticationExtensionsClientOutputs {
    bool hmacCreateSecret;
};

dictionary HMACGetSecretOutput {
    required ArrayBuffer output1;
    ArrayBuffer output2;
};

partial dictionary AuthenticationExtensionsClientOutputs {
    HMACGetSecretOutput hmacGetSecret;
};
```

